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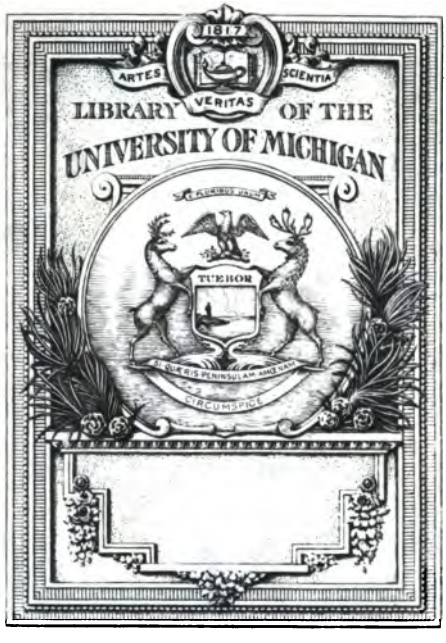
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Horace P. Biddle

THE

ORDEAL:

A

Critical Journal

OF

POLITICKS

AND

LITERATURE.

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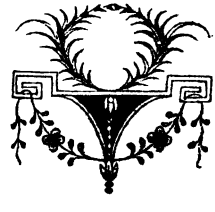

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THE

ORDEAL.

Nº. 1.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 7, 1809. [Vol. 1.

GENERAL INTRODUCTION.

*I say nothing but what I protest intendment of doing....*SHAKSPEARE.

In a place like Boston, which has always been remarkable for a disregard, if not discountenance of periodical works, and at a time when not only all the avenues to the altar of publick favour are filled with importunate candidates, but when the crisis in our publick affairs is so alarming as to threaten the very existence of the nation, it may well be enquired of the editors of the present publication, what result they can expect to their undertaking but failure, and what prospects they can discover but such as are overshadowed with clouds. At least it must be required of them, to state their peculiar pretensions to favour, and their intrinsick claims for support, and to show in what respect their labours are required to overthrow the monsters of political experiment which stamp disgrace upon the present times, and which from their unchecked progress threaten to endanger the happiness of this country to remote posterity.

Though the editors are completely sensible of the difficulties they must be obliged to encounter in their struggle for success, and though it is their lot to have fallen upon times pregnant with corruptions in politicks, religion and literature, but barren alike of patriotism, and munificence; yet, supported by their confidence in the sterling merit of *old fashioned* principles, they do not shrink from their attempt; and even should it prove abortive, they can compromise with misfortune from the impression that they have intended well, and have offered some feeble aid to that glorious opposition which has for its object the attainment of peace without dishonour, government without experiment, and national energy without national disgrace. We wish our po-

litical, religious and literary sentiments to be unequivocally understood, and our intentions openly explained: We think the political errours of the times fatal to the best interests of the community, and that such principles of religion and literature are spreading abroad as are calculated vitally to injure our national establishments. The paramount necessity of securing our civil and political existence should unite all honest men in an ardent effort to exhibit to the view *of the people* the deformities which disgrace the present administration of government, by tearing away the curtain of hypocrisy under which they have long been concealed.

The same imperious impressions relative to our religious establishments, which are daily experiencing the most daring innovations of principles, inculcate the necessity of a like exposure of their absurdities; and the strong connexion which subsists, in all good governments, between politicks, religion, and literature, renders it equally important to detect the fallacy of such literary hypotheses as may have a tendency to subvert our understandings or undermine our principles of action. It is under every aspect necessary to point out the paths of honour, sound principle, and true fame, to the votaries of their country's happiness, and show how the opposite course will conduct to licentiousness in action, corruption in motive, and degradation in renown.

The general avowal of their wishes having been thus announced, it is incumbent on the editors, to declare the methods by which they expect to realise their hopes and reduce their theory to practice.

The office of the satirist is always an ungrateful, though at the same time it is a necessary one. Eminence of station is not, nor should it be, exempt from attack. In the discussion of publick affairs, the vices of an administration may oftentimes be magnified when viewed through the convex medium of party opposition; but this extension of truth, if it encroach not too far upon falsehood, is authorised by the latitude of discussion which the interests of society require. Every principle of publick concern, is open to publick investigation and satirick assault. The pulpit, the senate, and the closet of the scholar, are equally exposed to reprehension. The animadversion of satire reaches to cases beyond the efforts of legal restraint. When

the cognizance of law has no effect, the satirist appeals to the tribunal of publick opinion, and enforces his doctrines with irresistible power. Under the proper limitations which prescribe its progress, if it be neither immoral, seditious, scandalous, nor blasphemous, it may fairly be used to *cleanse the foul body of the infected world*, and become the most effectual engine left, to restore to this country its ancient principles of government, and reform our deadly errours, not only in politicks, but in morals and religion. The time for discrimination is come; the times of pure and unsophisticated reason, of rational and practical philosophy, are past; solid reasonings are never read; and satire must find its way to the consciences of men when other resources are insufficient.

But the satirist himself is often considered in the light of a common enemy, whom it is the interest of society to avoid; his observations are continually distorted from their natural shape, his criticism is denominated abuse and his expostulation enmity. Under these imputations the editors must of necessity be contented. Though their office is dangerous, it is effective. The satirist consults his courage as well as conduct, he is the soldier for hazardous enterprise, is always employed upon *coup de mains*; and though he encounters the greatest dangers of the service, his whole satisfaction must be drawn from the singular effects of his operations and the distresses with which they load the enemy.

The application of satire must be local, to render it beneficial or effective; hence it must rather be employed on *persons* than *topics*; on the palpable exhibition of the vice, than the abstract nature of the crime. While it degenerates not into malignant abuse nor personal invective, but has only the fair prospects of sound literature, religion and politicks in view, it undoubtedly is in the true exercise of its 'legitimate peculiar powers' when it lashes publick men, who are supposed to be subverting the interests and endangering the safety of their country. Satire therefore will be one of the engines which the editors of this publication will employ to further their general design; but in what shape that satire will be exercised, whether in drawing allegorical or real characters, or whether in poetry or prose, it is now useless to determine, as its complexion will be changed according to the variation of circumstances.

These observations, however, in favour of unity, are by no means intended to imply an exclusion of articles of serious discussion or general information. The editors however, determine, if possible, that every thing which their paper is to contain, shall have a direct or implied local application; since they are thoroughly convinced that a work conducted on any other principles, however meritorious its execution might be, would comparatively, have but an ineffectual influence on the manners and opinions of men. But the influence of grave discussions, after all, is nugatory. The object of political investigation in the United States, is rather to inform the people than to check the government; here a change in the popular sentiment removes the administration, in England an administration is removed at the instigation of particular interests, of family connexions, or the royal will. There political remarks may contain more gravity of reason, and will have a certain effect; but here discussion must entertain as well as instruct; the multitude must be conducted to the point by the torch of fancy and not by the clue of logical investigation.

Events of great importance will be related as they transpire in the world; but unless they see the necessity of changing their plan, the editors will not undertake to render their paper a medium of early intelligence. The most important subjects of publick concern will be investigated with liveliness, and they are confident to hope, without any perversion of truth. In their particular introductions to the several departments of this publication, the editors intend to unfold distinctly their tenets of belief and intentions which each branch is designed to promote. They have, therefore, only think it necessary to mention the terms and typographical plan according to which the paper is to be executed.

CONDITIONS.

I. It is intended that the ORDEAL shall be published every Saturday evening, each number containing 16 octavo pages, on type and paper similar to this specimen, and be occasionally decorated with plates.

II. Twenty-six numbers will form a volume, the price of which to subscribers will be *Two Dollars*. Single numbers 10 Cents.

III. It will be delivered to subscribers in Boston and the vicinity on the day of publication, and to those at a distance by the earliest conveyance. ☞ None will be considered as subscribers but such as pay for one volume at the time of subscribing; and it will be sent to no persons living out of Boston, after his term of subscription has expired. *That we may never disturb the good nature of our friends with a call for payment, nor experience the mortification of a refusal ourselves, the above article will be dispensed with in no case whatever.*

IV. With the last number of each volume will be given a title page and index.

INTRODUCTION TO POLITICKS.

I would wish to act with those statesmen who would, as far as is consistent with the dignity and safety of the country, by a timely concession and a rational departure from too rigid principles, prevent those calamities which result from authority without power, and expense without support. Pur. Lit.

A CAREFUL review of the several administrations of the Federal Government since the adoption of the constitution, would be much more likely to lead to a judicious estimate among honest men of the comparative merits and peculiar policy of each, than any other conceivable method, on the authority of which an opinion could be formed. The federal administrations under Washington and Adams pursued a course of policy evidently contrary to the path which Mr. Jefferson and his party have followed; and in order to bring the merits of their respective systems to the test, it will only be necessary to mention the particular principles of both as contrasted with each other, and the effects which the promulgation of their doctrines have had, not only upon foreign nations, but our own domestick happiness.

The first very important difference of opinion which arose among the citizens of the United States after Washington accepted the office of President, resulted from the French revolution. Although that was an event, which began with the most atrocious crimes and continued cruel and bloody to its termination in the present military despotism of Napoleon, and although it is now universally censured by all well disposed partizans in this country, yet it is an undoubted fact that the predominant party which now presides over the destinies of America first

originated in the disgraceful enthusiasm created by French licentiousness. They were so rapt in admiration at the conflagration of consuming despotism, that they could not discern the tumult which threatened the destruction of those who first kindled the flame. The influence of French principles which was early extended over every country in Europe, soon became evident in this; when shall we forget the machinations of French agents in fomenting rebellion, and the clamours of faction for a war with Great-Britain? At this crisis the proclamation of neutrality by Washington arrested the dangers which threatened us, by opposing to them the effectual rampart of his personal responsibility. Let those persons who were so loud in their resentments on that occasion, reflect on what our probable situation at this time would have been had their policy been pursued, by considering our present situation, under the adoption of measures of similar tendency, when we are so much better able to sustain the distress which follows them.

The discussions relative to the treaty with Great Britain, negotiated by Mr. Jay, formed the next most important distinction between the Federalists and Democrats. How fairly their opposition to the administration on that subject was pursued, how justly their charges of treachery were founded, and how solid were their objections to the instrument itself, may be tested by the impossibility of their obtaining so good a one themselves, even under the Fox administration; the panegyricks on Mr. Jay's integrity and personal influence, pronounced by Lord Grenville in the House of Commons; and by their mean crimination of Mr. Munroe's negotiation, to hide their own disgrace.

The establishment of a navy was a favourite scheme of the late president Mr. Adams, and the violent opposition with which the present party assailed it, creates another striking difference in the opinions of the respective parties. The respect which was paid us abroad wherever our national flag was unfurled, the character of our President, and the practicability of all his measures, form a contrast to the present state of our national character and the personal influence of Mr. Jefferson, as gratifying to our feelings as partizans as it is overwhelming to our hopes as citizens. During the administration of the present government, from its systematick opposition to its predecessors, we have seen an obstinate perseverance in a trial of experiments in politicks, which none but the blindest theorists could presume would terminate in a fortunate result. We have seen a navy annihilated, philosophy displace experience, impracticable measures proposed and adopted, and though evidently inefficacious, most pertinaciously adhered to, and tyranically enforced. In short, the same tendency which attracted the Jacobins of 1798, to republican France, are in full operation in 1809, towards the despotick governour of the same nation. And the

same enmity which dictated a war with Great Britain in the early period of our national existence, now threatens to annihilate that existence in the pursuit of a policy not only absurd in theory, but in practice advantageous to our enemy and ruinous to ourselves. The various points of distinction which mark the federal and democratick administrations, would swell this paper to a greater bulk, than we can now suffer it to attain. We have not forgotten the judiciary, the impressment of seamen, the rule of 1756, the purchase of Louisiana, nor the influence of Virginia. But as those topicks will early call our attention, and as this address is principally to announce our political creed, we shall not discuss them at the present moment. The difference, however, which distinguishes one administration from the other is mainly this, the federal was a practical and the democratick is a theoretick system of policy. Under the benign influence of the first we were a prosperous and a happy people; our commerce flourished, our industry was successful, our character was respected, and our rights maintained; under the pestiferous shade of theory and dignified retirement, negotiation has been so long protracted by ridiculous impediments, that commerce is destroyed, industry is inert and insensible, the national character is disgraced, and under the pretence of maintaining secondary rights, our very existence seems fast approaching to its decisive termination.

To oppose such doctrines will be a principal object in this paper; we call therefore on the satirists of the times to lend us their torches to light the wretches, which disgrace our national annals, to the verge of everlasting night; and their thongs to whip them into the infamy they merit.

INTRODUCTION TO POETRY.

This department, in every literary journal in the United States, has always been meagre of original stamina or support, particularly as respects satirical effusions. And as we shall have in view, the censure of the ridiculous, as well as the approbation of the dignified, we shall frequently have recourse to foreign store-houses for weapons to overthrow the adversaries of good sense. We therefore offer our readers an account of a German drama, of some celebrity; which from the taste in which it is conducted, will give as fair a specimen of our intentions in the Poetical Department, as the most laboured exposition of our own could possibly afford. We call on our poetical friends for similar and congenial attempts, to scourge the absurd taste which prevails in the poetry of the times.

Nathan the Wise, a dramatical poem, is a genuine German drama, written without any imitation of French or English, and admirably calculated to elucidate the native and peculiar taste of that ingenious people. They have borrowed so much of late from both these quarters, that it may reasonably be doubted, whether a relish for their own original and appropriate literature be altogether so common in this country as is usually imagined. This book, we think, will afford a very useful test for determining that important problem, and will enable the reader immediately to ascertain whether he has hitherto admired the true German genius itself, or only its imitation of French and English. A traveller may very erroneously suppose that he relishes German cookery, when he gormandizes on fricandeau or plum-pudding at Vienna; but if he take delight in *sour krout* and *wild-boar venison*, he may rest assured that he is under no mistake as to the proficiency he has made, and that he has completely reconciled himself to the national taste of his entertainers. The work before us is as genuine sour krout as ever perfumed a feast in Westphalia.

The story, in point of absurdity, we think, is fairly entitled to beat away the palm from the celebrated German play in the poetry of the Antijacobin: the moral is no less comfortable; and the diction, though not altogether so lofty, is, upon the whole, entitled to equal admiration.

The scene is laid in Jerusalem in the time of the crusades; and the story turns chiefly upon the adventures of a young Templar, who had been made captive by the armies of the celebrated Saladin. This monarch, who is represented as a pattern of mildness and generosity, chuses to amuse himself one morning by seeing the heads of twenty persons struck off by his chief executioner, and witnesses the operation upon nineteen of them with singular complacency and satisfaction. Being struck, however, with a sort of resemblance which the twentieth seemed to bear to a favourite brother, who had disappeared many years before, he directs his life to be spared, and allows him to roam at large, in a starving condition, through all the streets of Jerusalem. In one of his evening rambles, this youth perceives the house of Nathan the Jew to be on fire; and gallantly going to the assistance of the city firemen, is the means of saving the Jew's daughter from the flames. The young Israelite very naturally falls in love with her preserver; but he, having a bad opinion of the whole nation, keeps out of the way of her gratitude, till Nathan finds him out, and wins the affection of this Christian champion in a moment, by assuring him that he is not a Jew, but only a sort of Deist, who has acquired a habit of going to the synagogue without meaning any thing. The Templar protests that he is himself of the very same faith; and, after vowing eternal friendship, he goes home with him and falls furiously in love with he daughter.

In the mean time, Saladin sends for the Jew to lend him money, and to ask him which of the three religions is the best, the Christian, Jewish, or Mahometan. The learned Rabbi answers, that they are all very good in their way; but that it is impossible to say, till the day of judgment, which is the best: and then gratifying his royal pupil with heaps of gold, he leaves him enchanted with his wisdom and munificence. The Templar, without considering his vow of celibacy, now becomes very urgent to marry the daughter of Nathan; and some accidental obstacles being thrown in the way, it turns out, 1st, that this fair creature is not the Jew's daughter, but the daughter of a Christian Knight, who had confided her to his charge; 2d, that the gallant Templar is the son of the Saracen, prince who had disappeared from Saladin's court, and, wandering into Europe, had been seized with the caprice of becoming a Knight Templar, and fighting against his own beloved brother, under which character he had chosen, however inconsistently, to marry a German lady, and beget this young hero; and, 3d, that the same illustrious convert was also the father of the Jew's reputed daughter, and consequently, that these young lovers stand to each other in the relation of brother and sister. The most edifying part of the story is, that this discovery produces no sort of uneasiness or disturbance to the parties concerned; on the contrary, the young people seem quite delighted with the occurrence; and the author leaves them embracing their uncle the Sultan, in a paroxysm of filial and paternal affection. Such is the fable of Nathan the Wise.

We shall quote a line or two representing the doctrines of the author, which recommend as an antidote to religious intolerance, an absolute indifference or infidelity. When the Templar is reproaching the Jew with the prejudices and superstitions of his nation, he answers,

"*Nath.* ——————— Despise my nation—
We did not chuse a nation for ourselves.
Are we our nations? What's a nation then?
Were Jews and Christians such, ere they were men?
And have I found in thee one more, to whom
It is enough to be a man?
"*Temp.* That hast thou.
Nathan, by God, thou hast. Thy hand; I blush
To have mistaken thee a single instant." p. 104.

This pious Knight makes a still clearer profession of his faith in a dialogue with a Christian woman, in which the poor damsel having happened to say,

"*Daya.* ————nor were this time
The first, when thro' an unexpected path
The Saviour drew his children on to him
Across the tangled maze of human life.

he answers,

"*Temp.* So solemn that? and yet if in the stead
Of Saviour, I were to say Providence,
It would sound true——" p. 170.

The creed of the Sultan appears, from a variety of passages, to be equally liberal and accommodating.

The diction and composition of this piece are not, as we have already observed, altogether so magnificent or ambitious as those of the modern German theatre. It aims rather at a great simplicity and aptness. The dialogue is the most familiar and natural imaginable, and the metaphors and figures which are introduced the most humble and homely. There is a vein of innocent joculârity which runs through the whole drama; and the Sultan and his ministers gibe and play upon each other, in the very same style of infantine raillery and impatience, which prevails between the young Jewess and her governante. The personages are all very quick and snappish, withal, without ever subjecting themselves to the agitations of the greater passions; and the author has contrived most ingeniously to produce a drama, which has all the levity of comedy, without its wit or vivacity, and all the extravagance of tragedy, without its passion or poetry.

The translator, we think, has done great justice to his original; except that his partiality for the German idiom has induced him to stick to it occasionally, to the manifest prejudice of his English: his notions of metrical harmony are probably borrowed from the same source.

The following is part of the first dialogue that passes between the lovers.

"*Recha.* Where have you been? where you perhaps ought not—
That is not well.
Temp. Up—how d'ye call the mountain?
Up Sinai.
Recha. Oh that's very fortunate.
Now I shall learn for certain, if 'tis true—
Temp. What! If the spot may yet be seen where Moses
Stood before God; when first—
Recha. No, no; not that.
Where'er he stood, 'twas before God. Of this
I know enough already. Is it true,
I wish to learn from you, that—that it is not
By far so troublesome to climb this mountain
As to get down—for on all mountains else,
That I have seen, quite the reverese obtains." p. 128-29.

The following soliloquy of the wise Nathan, when the Sultan leaves him to ponder on his query about the three religions, is in a loftier style, and is in the best and most sententious manner of the author.

" *Nath.* I came prepar'd with cash—he asks truth. Truth?
As if truth too were cash—a coin disus'd
That goes by weight—indeed 'tis some such thing—
But a new coin, known by the stamp at once,
To be flung down and told upon the counter,
It is not that. Like gold in bags tied up,
So truth lies hoarded in the wise man's head
To be brought out—Which now in this transaction,
Which of us plays the Jew? he asks for truth,
Is truth what he requires, his aim, his end?
That this is but the glue to lime a snare
Ought not to be suspected, 'twere too little,
Yet what is found too little for the great—
In fact, thro' hedge and pale to stalk at once
Into one's field beseems not—friends look round,
Seek for the path, ask leave to pass the gate—
I must be cautious. Yet to damp him back
And be the stubborn Jew is not the thing;
And wholly to throw off the Jew, still less.
For if no Jew he might with right inquire—
Why not a Mussulman?——" p. 145--46.

We suspect our readers have enough now; yet there are many choice phrases and images to be culled. Nathan, reproving pride, says,

" The iron pot would with a silver prong
Be lifted from the fire."

The fair Recha comparing the truth of Christianity to weeds sown in her mind, says,

" Yet I must acknowledge
I feel as if they had *a sour sweet odour*,
That makes me giddy—that half suffocates me."

And her handmaid, observing the agitation of her lover, observes with much elegance,

—— " Something passes in him.
It boils—but it must not boil over. Leave him—

The same personage conceiving Nathan to be somewhat severe in his sarcasms, replies to him with great spirit, by first saying, " *Hit off*," and then exclaiming, " *you are on the bite.*" We suspect, however, that we are indebted to the taste of the translator for the dignity of these two repartees.

There is one other phrase to which he seems particularly partial, and which has a very singular effect on his composition. He can by no chance be prevailed upon to use the verb " *to find*," without coupling it with the particle " *up*;" thus, he says, " We'll find thee up a staff;"—" go find me up the Jew;"—" Will no one find me the

Dervise says, "I wish to find him up that may convert her," &c. &c. The phrase occurs at least twenty times; and whether it be borrowed from the idiom of the original, or invented by the translator, must certainly be allowed to possess singular grace and animation.

We have now exhibited enough, we conceive, of this drama, to satisfy the greater part of our readers, that, in spite of some late alarming symptoms, there is good reason for holding, that there is still a considerable difference between the national taste of Germany and of this country. The piece before us, has not only been a favourite acting play for these six and twenty years, but it is considered as one of the best productions of their celebrated Lessing, who is vaunted as the purest and most elegant of their dramatick writers, and has long been the idol of all those who cry down Schiller and Kotzebue as caricaturists. The translation is from the pen of Mr. Taylor of Norwich, whose admirable versions of Lenore, and of the Iphigenia in Tauris, have placed him at the head of all translators from that language.

THE STAGE.

Hard is his lot, who here by fortune plac'd,
Must watch the wild vicissitudes of taste;
With every meteor of caprice must play,
And chase the new blown bubbles of the day.

PRELIMINARY.

WHATEVER importance may generally have been attached to criticisms on dramatical performances, it is certain that the interest which such compositions excite, is not only lively in itself, but, from its reference to local circumstances and characters is increased almost in proportion to the personality with which it is attended. The conductors of the Theatrical Department in the ORDEAL, while they do not feel themselves bound under any restraint in speaking of the exhibitions of the stage, do certainly consider those remarks which attach to players in general to be nugatory in their effects, unless they are caused by uncommon merit, or dictated by peculiar circumstances of demerit, in the performer. The common player is either incorrigible from dulness, dead to ambition from severity of censure, or incapable of a correct personation of character by reason of the innumerable difficulties he is obliged to encounter from rivalship of parts

in other performers, managerial intolerance, or limitation of time necessary to acquire a competent recollection of his author. Such arguments lose their force, however, when referred to *authors* actors, and have no weight whatever, when the plays and not the players are the subjects of investigation. Accordingly our remarks will be directed to the apparent taste of the publick, and the merits of the compositions rather than to the defects of men and women, whose secondary intellects and capriciousness of passion would reduce the dignity of criticism to the clamorous ebullitions of frivolous garrulity.

BOSTON THEATRE.

Among those plays which most unequivocally demand the process of *analysis*, those which are native, and born in the country, though in themselves unimportant compositions, should most decidedly receive the earliest attention. Nothing of this nature had occurred during the whole of the present season, until THE PILGRIMS, made its appearance a few weeks ago. But before we enter minutely into the discussion of its particular merits, it is necessary to make some few remarks on the nature of that theatrical mania, or *passion for the monstrous*, by which the present age of the English theatre is so disgracefully distinguished. The French theatre has had the merit within the last ten years of introducing the *melo-drama*, or a union of pantomime and dialogue, as the English theatre had about a century and a half ago, of beginning the more natural entertainment of tragi-comedy. The English, however, have adopted the melo-drama in its fullest latitude, and they have not only translated all the French and German compositions of any celebrity; but have preposterously turned their own tragedies as well as story-books and novels into works of the same heterogeneous texture.

If there are to be no disputes about propriety of taste, we must give up all pretensions to assert the necessity of truth and good sense in our amusements. But if there is such a thing as taste inhering in the human mind, we can only account for the permission of the *melo-drama* on the stage, on some such principles as should lead a white man to prefer for his companion the sable beauty of the coast of Africa, to the American female, glowing with healthfulness and youth, and filled with

"The bloom of young desire and purple light of love."

That taste has an existence, however, and is governed by some rules, is only denied by a few visionary minds; and in that particular branch of the subject, which implies the power of discrimination in the fine arts and associate feelings, it exists more evidently than in any other. It is here that *good sense* is the principal requisite in the formation of a

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good taste, and though there may be disputes as to the becoming appearance of long waists or naked elbows, there is no doubt that Dryden was a fine poet, and Lord Chatham an eloquent statesman. But this desire for the *monstrous* is a crime against all reason, sense and propriety in nature. Tell a woman at this day that a wide hooped petticoat, or an extreme long waist, would much improve her exterior, and she would laugh in your face; yet these absurd fashions, were formerly universal, and had enthusiastick admirers. But the *melo-drama*, confounding all propriety in confusion, and nature in absurdity, can have no defence even in the moment of its full career. Palpably deviating from the only principles of taste which are supposed to have any governing influence on the mind, people of understandings the most obtuse as well as those of refined intellect, acknowledge the absurdity; and yet persevere in encouraging it. We shall improve another occasion to scout the *monster* from our stage, and to endeavour to unite all persons in one general exclamation against such preposterous violations of genuine good sense, and such dangerous attempts absolutely to pervert the taste of the community.

With this opinion of the *melo-drama* in general, it cannot be expected that we should view "The Pilgrims" with very favourable sentiments, however successfully it might have been composed, under the operation of the principles which govern such compositions. "The Pilgrims," however, is not entitled to *respect* from any consideration; though from its disgracing one of the most shining events which adorns our national annals it demands the most decided reprehension. It is a composition singularly absurd; it has neither conformity of character to historical fact, truth of relation, propriety of incident, nor interest of fable, to recommend it. We are sensible that this summary condemnation can be pronounced by any critick, however ignorant, on any play however meritorious, and therefore is entitled to no consideration unless it be supported by proof. While therefore we confess we have a strong partiality to the story, on which this *mis-called drama* is founded, we will proceed to account for the contempt which it has produced in our minds.

The fable is shortly this. First, Winslow and Juliana are desperately in love with each other, and two servants among the pilgrims are equally enamoured of *her*. In this state of things the landing of our forefathers takes place, which only involves a few aberrations from history, such as their discovering the natives immediately on their landing, which did not occur until three months afterwards, and the confusion occasioned by confounding the real character of Samoset in Squanto. After the landing, Watson, one of the servants, makes a most impudent declaration of his affection to Juliana, telling her that though he was her inferior in England, in the wilds of America he is her equal,

She resists, he presses, she screams, and in comes the rival servant Grafton, to her rescue. They fight, she escapes, and immediately Governour Carver seizes them, arrests their deadly revenge, gives them a sermon on duelling, and orders them to be tied back to back for their offence. In the mean time, Samoset, an Indian Chief, falls into a violent passion for this same Juliana, and as she is one day, probably in *the month of January*, taking a walk in *the woods* for a prospect, she finds one all *mildness and serenity, clearness and extent*. Here this impertinent Samoset interrupts her soliloquy and attempts to carry her off, and though he is opposed by Winslow, (who happened to be on a shooting frolick that morning, and came in the way at the very moment) he very nearly effects his design; but is fortunately prevented from accomplishing his wicked purposes by the very timely interposition of king Massasoit; who severely reprimands the Indian lover for his treachery, and dismisses him with a severe lecture on illicit attachment. The king and Juliana now go in quest of Winslow, who is missing after his fight with Samoset. It is not a little surprising that Juliana never told the king of the battle Winslow had with the Indian traitor, and should suffer him to get off so easily; however a circumstance still more surprising follows upon the heels of this first surprising emotion. Juliana and the king come across another *Birnam wood*, denominated an Indian ambush. For what purpose an ambush is laid, we are not informed, nor can we readily imagine; the Indians were avowedly friendly to the pilgrims, and no war took place in Plymouth until many years after the landing. But so it is, they met with an ambush, and after the king carried his soldiers through their *manual exercise of trees*, Juliana and himself hide themselves behind the bushes; which is the most singular way of finding out a person who was missing that we believe was ever exhibited on any stage. Winslow however very opportunely comes by at this moment; the moving grove surrounds him, frightens him out of his wits, and then out bolts the king and his mistress, for the purpose probably of producing a decided contrast in his feelings, for stage effect. The lovers are afterwards united by Governour Carver, who officiates as priest, and they form the first couple, which were ever married in New England.

Having brought this story to a conclusion, let us see if there is any other to relate. Though there is none which has any connection with the last, yet there are many more in the piece. First of all, an Irishman and an Indian squaw, are in love with each other, then an Indian chief, a relation of king Massasoit, is restored to him, by means of Governour Carver, in a most surprising manner.

Besides all this, we are treated with a feast of shells, where no part of the fable is promoted, and where a witty Indian eats the inside of an oyster and presents the shell to a pilgrim; and after which Govern-

our Carver talks to the Indians as if they were courtiers in a ball room, and they answer him as if they were perfectly well acquainted with the arts and sciences in civilized life. The pilgrims speak of the falls of Niagara, before they could have been known; and *Massamit* talks of weighing the *islander's* observations in the *balance of justice* before he had seen a pair of scales, or could understand there was such distinction in language as justice and injustice. In conclusion, the natives and the pilgrims assemble in one place, to see the wedding, it is presumed, of Winslow and Juliana. When lo! the goddess of liberty appears in a cloud, which descends gradually upon the stage; but neither the descent nor the appearance of the goddess excites any surprise. Quite the contrary; she must have been an intimate acquaintance of the pilgrims, for the governour walks up to the cloud, with a very polite and gentlemanly deportment, hands her goddess-ship out, and conducts her to the front of the stage. Here she makes a long harangue, and illustrates her observations in 1620, by allusions to events (with which she must have supposed her hearers to have been acquainted) which took place in 1809; and after telling them how great, powerful, and wise their descendants were likely to be, she is conducted back to her cloud in the same order as before; and then a marriage dance on the beach or in the woods concludes the entertainment.

It will appear from this representation that the composition in question is a compound of incongruous episodes; that none of them are connected; that the dialogue is absurd, the characters not preserved, and the serious incidents laughably ridiculous. Yet we cannot dismiss the subject without observing, that the period of the landing of our forefathers at Plymouth, embraces more circumstances of domestic vicissitude and national importance, calculated to form a serious drama, than almost any historical epoch of which we have an account. An event however which is not yet sufficiently darkened by the veil of time to warrant any deviations from fact, in the dramatick relation; but one which every lover of his country must wish should be commemorated by some writer who could do justice to the subject; who could portray with liveliness the perils of the unknown ocean, which washed the shore of Plymouth, and the numerous other difficulties which the pilgrims encountered; and who should be able, with a pen like Virgil's, to rescue the names of Winslow, Carver, and Bradford, the founders of his country, from the musty records of primitive times.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 2.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 14, 1809. [Vol. I.

POLITICKS.

It is not the disorder, but the physician; it is not a casual concurrence of calamitous circumstances; it is the pernicious hand of government, which alone can make a whole people desperate. JUNIUS.

REVIEW *of Mr. Giles's first Speech in the Senate of the United States, on the Resolution of Mr. Hillhouse to repeal the Embargo Laws.*

THE numerous questions which the Embargo laws have occasioned, have excited general attention by stronger appeals to *interest* in the discussion, than can probably be found in the elements of any other controversy, except that of the adoption of the constitution, that has ever been agitated in the United States. It may now, perhaps, be too late to enter at large into the merits of the principal topicks involved in the consideration of that measure: but the importance which has been attached by the democratick party to the SPEECH of MR. GILES, *under review*, seems to demand an exposition of its visionary and impracticable fancies, and a refutation of the assumed arguments by which the advocates of the embargo justify a continuance of the policy, upon which it was originally founded.

As the views of this most ingenious gentlemen, are chiefly relied upon by his party, and as his ambition we understand is to be considered the champion of that party, we are willing to enter into his reasonings somewhat at large; and shall first offer a faithful abstract of his arguments in defence of the administration, which is contained in this attempt, and afterwards produce such remarks as have occurred to us upon the momentous question, which it is its intention to discuss.

He begins with a great deal of declamation about his retirement from the political world, and his astonishment that the embargo laws should have met with any opposition, since, from the opportunities he had had of observing *thereupon*, he thought he *knew something of the general objects of those laws*; though he at the same time confessed he felt a *real want of information* on the subject. From this avowal at the outset we were not at all surprised to discover numerous other contradictions in the inferences which he draws, from more important points than the consequence which results from either *his knowledge of the embargo laws*, or his *want of information* on the subject.

Mr. Giles in the first place understands the intention of the embargo laws to be two fold; a precautionary, operating upon ourselves, and a coercive intention, operating upon the aggressing belligerents. And as the only fair estimate of the measure to be obtained must be by considering our situation at the time of its adoption, he proceeds to inform us that the government had a *tolerably* correct account of it. He says we had merchandise and vessels actually afloat to the value of 100 millions of dollars; that merchandise and vessels to the amount of 50 millions more were expected shortly to be set afloat; and that 50,000 seamen would be required to navigate the property. In this state of things France had issued her hostile edicts, and government were informed of an intention on the part of Great-Britain to issue her Orders in Council, "the character and object of which were known." Here Mr. Giles pauses in his argument to offer a panegyrick on Mr. Jefferson for saving all this property and all these seamen, and then proceeds to admit that they had gone *voluntarily* into that very "*hard and ignominious service*," to prevent which has been the principal occasion of the difficulties under which we labour. First, he says the *fact* of their enlistment in foreign service is greatly exaggerated, then he endeavours to excuse the President for driving them out of the country, and afterward affirms that they have *not* gone away. Thus it is that the warm and sincere advocate of Mr. Jefferson runs away with discretion, and debases his talents by contradiction.

After taking for granted, however, that the precautionary part of the embargo policy, has been attained, one principal object of which he admits was the security of our seamen, he proceeds to prove its *coercion on foreign nations*. But he is stopped at the threshold by the consideration of its injuring ourselves more than our enemy, and he might have added *of our friends as well as our enemies*. He remarks however, very jocosely, that the ships of the merchant are only twelve months older now than they were twelve months ago, which reminds us of Touchstone's account of the progress of time.

"'Tis but an hour ago since it was nine,
And after one hour more 'twill be eleven;
And thus from hour to hour we ripe and ripe,
And then from hour to hour we rot and rot.
And thereby hangs a tale———

The concluding part of the quotation, "rot and rot," has so strong an application to our ships, that we cannot help thinking the exclamation of Hamlet, "*that's worm-wood!*" may have a literal as well as metaphorical signification in the apprehension of Mr. Giles. The merchant, however, he says, must comfort himself with the satisfaction that he has any ships left to rot, for had it not been for the embargo he would have lost them all, and the enemy would then have derived the benefit of their capture. He wishes the merchant to suck

comfort from melancholy :' But the farmer, he remarks, so far from being in a deplorable, is in an enviable situation. Hear this, ye farmers of New-England,

" You have mistook your interest all this while,
By heavens! he finds, although you cannot,
Yourselves to be in marvellous in good case."

He says (the merchant having of late paid double taxes) the farmer sees fourteen millions of dollars in the treasury, of course there are no taxes; but he admits the great depreciation not to say destruction of his produce. Yet he has enough to eat and drink, let him be thankful for that; let him remember, that though his surplus produce is not worth any thing now, it would have been just as bad if the embargo had not been put on, *for the merchant would have lost all his vessels by capture, and would of course have been unable to pay for it.* In addition to this, the farmer has hitherto raised too large crops, he has injured his land in order to get rich too fast. The embargo will teach him his interest in this respect. The farmer, therefore, should make a just estimate of his "enviable situation," and pray to God in future to give him small crops, and thank the good government of his country for teaching him to discover the *smiles* of prosperity through the *tears* of his purse.

Mr. Giles then launches forth into the wide sea of panegyrick, fills the sail of domestick manufacture, and wafts her into the haven of success. No storms can threaten it when sheltered by the high lands of the embargo system; but from the operation of a mild and serene atmosphere, it will widen its roots and scatter its seeds so far, that the remotest corners of this happy, happy nation shall repose gratefully under its shade, and its final eradication can then never take place, unless occasioned by some concussion of the elements, fatal to the existence of the empire. He now comes to consider what he sat out upon, the effects of the embargo laws in *coercing* foreign powers. And first, he admits that they have not had their complete effect. This leads him into a double consideration: *of their operation on the aggressing belligerents*, and the *causes by which complete success has been frustrated.* Notwithstanding the embargo, he admits that the orders in council and imperial decrees continue; but for all this it has raised the price of flour in the West-Indies, and operating with the expectation of a small crop in England, has raised it there also; and the prices of cotton, tobacco, and naval stores are considerably enhanced, according to Liverpool price currents. But the greatest *coercion* of all is, that we have *lessened the inducements* of belligerents *to go to war with us.* A *coercion* of this kind is a novel principle, we believe, in the code of national resentments, and as it is altogether so dignified, magnanimous, and energetick, we give Mr. Jefferson full credit for having originated the idea, and Mr. Giles equal praise for enforcing it so ably.

The next effect of the embargo upon Great-Britain, he proceeds to state, is its deducting from her revenue annually 600,000 dollars; that being the amount of the duty of 4 per cent. on the manufactures sent to the United States. He next considers the consequences of drawing out of employ 50,000 manufacturers; which he affirms can be nothing less than a heavy charge upon that nation: which, oppressed as they are already with taxes, must be viewed as a dreadful calamity. Mr. Giles then remarks, with singular ingenuity and quaintness, that "all these considerations must present strong inducements to Great-Britain to revoke her hostile orders; *but she has hitherto refused so to do.*" This leads him into an examination of the causes of this refusal; which he principally attributes to our internal discontents, exaggerated through the medium of opposition papers; but he considers it may in some measure be caused by the revolution in Spain. However, this latter idea loses its force, when he considers Mr. Canning's conduct after he had heard of our own dissentions.

He then views the consequences of the embargo as respects France; and though he considers that she is not *coerced* by it nearly so much as Great-Britain, yet he undertakes to say she is affected a great deal. He speaks of the blockade of the West-India islands and their want of provisions in consequence of it; touches lightly upon its effects upon Spain and Holland, at the time of its adoption in alliance with France, and throws out a sly insinuation that it might have had some operation in the evacuation of Portugal by the French army. Which latter circumstance, we think, produces an *argument in favour of coercing Great-Britain* of wonderful efficacy and ingenuity.

He defends the French Emperor from the suggestion which he is said to have made in favour of this measure, by saying that he viewed it as all politicians throughout Europe considered it, that is, with singular complacency. Which idea of Napoleon, he does not seem to imagine, places any obstacle to the fact of its injuring him all the time he is praising it.

He concludes this branch of the discussion by the following result: "That the embargo laws have not been without materially beneficial effects upon both the belligerents; that they have presented strong appeals to the interests of both; but that these appeals have not produced their complete effect." And this effect, he further observes, has only failed from extraordinary events, which could not possibly have been foreseen at the adoption of the measure.

The close of his speech is made up of replies to Messrs. Hillhouse, Lloyd, and others; but with them, we at present have nothing to do. What we have abstracted is the sum and substance of Mr. Giles' defence of the embargo policy. It appears plainly from the whole of his vindication, that Mr. Giles rests his defence of the measure, upon the two broad grounds assumed by the administration; viz.

1st. That it operated as a precaution, in saving our merchandize, ships and seamen from the gripe of aggressing belligerents; and

2d. That, presenting most powerful appeals to the interests of our enemies, it was a measure of coercion, calculated to produce great national concessions in our favour.

We shall not here attempt to close the argument of Mr. Giles by blinking it with a question of constitutional right; nor notice in particular the insolence of his reasonings on *a question of continuance*, which properly applied to *the question of adoption*; considering that at the time of adoption it was hurried through without either reason or discussion. We are willing to contemplate the subject on the grounds he has assumed, and our inquiries, we fear, will not lead us to any very satisfactory conclusion.

We are willing to admit that indications were evident, at the time this measure was passed, on the part of Great-Britain that she was about to retaliate on France for the Berlin decree of Nov. 21; but government, not having any official account of them, the British orders in council did in fact make no part of the reasons for determining in favour of the embargo. We are willing also to admit the measure to here been wise, so far as it conduced to calling in our ships, and giving us time to prepare a more efficient system of defence; but no further. The time at which its benefits accrued has long ago expired; and when Mr. Giles offers as a present *argument for the continuance of the policy*, what was only good twelve months ago, we oppose him at the very outset of the discussion. If the embargo did then operate as a precaution; at present it has a *contrary* effect, and the longer it continues, *that effect is likely to be increased*. The objects of precaution were merchandize, vessels and seamen. Mr. Giles admits the seamen to have departed from the country, but in limited numbers; and we know they left it in consequence of the continuance of the embargo. The operation of precaution, in respect to them, is now directly *reversed*; and as the length of its duration is admitted to increase the temptation to depart into other countries, the embargo *now* has evidently an opposite effect to that calculated upon at the period when it was laid. The *importance* of our seamen need not here be amplified to convince the present administration; since it has been their constant endeavour to make *them the principal subject* of difficulty in all our negociations with Great-Britain. And we venture to affirm, without much risk of contradiction, that *but for them*, and the ridiculous discussions of Mr. Madison about British deserters, our commerce would now have been unshackled by restrictions. Our merchandize and ships are the only objects of precaution then, to which the embargo can now have any application. And here Mr. Giles is obliged to confess that many of our merchants have been ruined in consequence of the fate of our ships and the extravagant duties they have been obliged to pay upon an enormous amount of inactive merchandize. Our domestick produce is

partly perished. Commerce abroad is now forcing new channels of conveyance; and were the embargo raised to-morrow, our precaution would have ruined the merchant by unequal and unjust pressure; and he would never again be placed upon the advantageous ground on which he stood before the embargo was established, in consequence of the substitution of other carriers.

The argument of precaution now is surely at an end, as applied to seamen, ships and merchandize. If merchants are willing to risk their property abroad under all the present restrictions of France and England; if there is a general spirit of disaffection in the commercial states, and if there are constant evasions of the laws, it is vain to persist in the measure on that ground. Experience is daily attesting the fallacy of the principle.

The idea of presenting such appeals to the interests of the belligerent powers, as to induce them to alter their decrees and orders, which makes the second branch of Mr. Giles' defence, is perfectly absurd, on two grounds. First, because the measure was impotent as it respects our foreign relations, and because there are *some inducements for believing the British government are favourable to its continuance*; and second, because had it been evidently effective, the British nation would sustain a very pressing emergence before she would grant the high-handed principles of commerce for which our administration are contending.

It may be also mentioned that the unaccommodating temper which the President and Mr. Madison have indicated towards Great-Britain, and their acquiescing deportment towards France, were too evident to the British ministry to induce a relaxation of a system, which, whatever might be its effects on that nation, certainly was more materially injurious to the citizens of the United States.

(To be continued.)

POETRY.

Few complaints have been more frequently preferred and in every instance have been so well maintained, as that, which charges the present theatrical taste, with nonsensical and affected sentiment, hard-strained wit and frivolous repartee. The scene painter and not the poet, seems to be the object of the greatest attention; and wild beasts, demons and angels the chief personages, to exhibit whom, the pageantry of the stage is contrived. To effect this desirable end, real dogs have been taught to plunge into real water before the audience; wild-men, wood-demons, spectres, caravans, sorcerers, giants, oracles, green, black, red and blue fiends, are put in requisition from known and unknown worlds; the scene painter and tailor are taught to manufacture

them in legions, and they are then produced to frighten the young, and delight the full-grown children, who compose the audience. "How natural," exclaims a lady, "is that hell represented; and then "that fiery fiend! the painter must surely have been familiar with such sights, or he never could have drawn them so truly."

We really are unacquainted with any subject which requires more decisive exposure, than this tendency to applaud the marvellous and corrupt taste, by which modern authors are directed. The following parody of "*Collins's Ode on the Passions*," has the exposure of this perverted taste in view. The style is not very successfully laboured, nor is the parody remarkably close; yet the thoughts are some of them eminently happy, and others singularly humorous; but it is mainly to be commended for its beneficial tendency. We offer no other apology for introducing it than this, that the same taste which it is intended to expose has already spread very widely in America, and threatens to eradicate every principle of legitimate comedy which has ever been implanted in the country.

COMEDY IN THE CAGE.

AN ODE.

"Ordine nullo
Occula dispensat natha suprema per omnes."

OVID.

WHEN Comedy, poor dame was old,
A vagrant strumpet and a scold,
The beadle forc'd her to remain
In a tall cage near Drury-lane:
Her children all, with different faces,
Sprang from promiscuous embraces,
With bawling, ballad-singing yell,
Crowded around her vaulted cell:
Till once, 'tis said, in riot frisky,
High prim'd with true Hibernian whiskey,
The motley Savoyarding band
In the piazza took their stand:
And as they oft had tried apart
The mumming, masquerading art
Each, to please the gaping crowd,
Rehears'd his separate part alou

First *Snip snap* aim'd her skill to try,
(A spurious branch of repartee)
And giggling laugh'd she knew not why,
E'en at her own affected glee.

Next enter'd puzzle-headed *Plot*,
His limbs a fowler's net surrounded;

Striving to tear each stubborn knot,
He left "confusion worse confounded!"

Then *Bathos* pour'd from brazen throat,
Ideas poor, in language rich;
Still striving to o'erleap the moat,
But falling headlong in the ditch.

But thou, *Stage Loyalty*, all boast and brag,
What was thy sublime oration?
Where'er the scene, or false or true,
Whether in China or Peru,
Still, still it prais'd the English nation,
And to Britannia bade the world submit;
Still would the patriot strain prolong,
And from the gallery, box and pit
Call bowing Encore, to repeat the song;
And whilst in his own praise he spoke
Encore stood by and bawl'd out "hearts of Oak;"
Whilst Loyalty huzza'd and wav'd the British flag:

And longer had he wav'd—but cleft in two
Arch-rainbow *Scenery* arose,
His trembling lips the magick whistle blew,
And straight appear'd the craggy rocks,
High mountains, drawing-rooms and flocks,
Prisons to guard a truant daughter,
And cataracts of real water;
And dapper trees in new green clothes,
All nodding "How-d'ye do," in rows;
And though sometimes, each loud applause between,
Rejected *Costume* at his side,
"All this is mighty pretty," cried;
"But tell me, gaudy painter, what
"It has to do with me or *Plot*?"
Still Scenery lengthen'd out his tether,
And Europe, Asia, Afric, danc'd a jig together.

Thy gambols, *Farce*, now high, now low,
Were nought but war-whoop, stride and grin;
'Twas now philanthropy in Merchants' Row,
And now a booted harlequin.

With eyes upturn'd and hose unmended,
Pale *Sentiment* a tub ascended,
And from her methodistick throne,
In piteous lamentable tone,

Pour'd in Soliloquy the doleful note,
While caught from box to box around,
Dulness bore the soothing sound,
Soft o'er the pit the drowsy murmur's float
And round the gall'ries flit in fond delay;
Till tir'd with clapping and encoring,
All gently nodding, dozing, snoring,
In sleep the audience died away.

But O how alter'd was the wondering stare,
When mad *Buffoonery*, leaping forth to view,
A fool's-cap jingling on his crown,
One stocking red, the other blue,
Cried "dam'me, that's your sort," and knock'd old Squaretoes down;
Then strew'd the earth with broken crockery ware.
The heroes of the upper gallery go
In gathering crowds to see the show,
Creeping from forth their alleys low;
Exulting Folly join'd the yell,
And Bedlam shook his chains through every cell.

Last came *Pun*, as Janus sturdy,
He in zig-zag motion prancing;
To the jews-harp his teeth address'd;
But soon he spied the hurdy-gurdy,
Whose buzz ambiguous pleas'd his ear the best.
They would have thought who heard him gabble
His Babel jargon to the rabble,
They saw in village pool a goose,
Her red beak split, her pinions loose,
To her own hisses madly dancing.
Whilst as conundrums round he flung,
Pun join'd with Folly in an Irish reel;
Naked her body was, and light her heel,
And he, sworn foe to melancholy,
Scorning to be outdone by Folly,
Shook nameless nothings from his quiv'ring tongue.

O Comedy, thou fallen fair!
Friend to pleasure, foe to care,
Now common grown to half the town—
Where is thy former fair renown?
Whene'er stage history records
The memory of thy wedded lords,

Dost thou no fond remembrance feel
For Congreve, Coleman, Cibber, Steele?
Hadst thou reserv'd for such a race
Thy matrimonial, chaste embrace,
Thy womb had ne'er produc'd to view
This spurious raggamuffin crew.
Tis said, and I believe the tale,
Thy lash of old could more avail,
Wrought more amendment from the stage,
Than all that charms this senseless age.
For shame! give o'er this vagrant life,
Become once more a wedded wife;
Or turn to fasting, prayers, and Lent,
And in thy widowhood repent.

INTRODUCTORY.

It is the avowed intention of the Editors of the ORDEAL to expose all systems which they think repugnant to true religion; the interests of which it is their determination to maintain. To effect which great national object they are ready *to fight it to the last.* Satire is now-a-days, and to certain people, no longer a mirrour from which they may see the reflexion of their own faces; but a pane of window-glass, in which they can discover any other image than their own. It may be necessary to observe, that the communication which follows has a local application; let those who are concerned have wit enough to find it out. Our correspondent too, is one who is no flincher, 'he'll not budge an inch from the encounter.'

If any person offended with his remarks is inclined to oppose them, the pages of the ORDEAL, are open to his communications, whether they are keen or blunt, whether the arguments knock down like a sledge-hammer, or cut like a razor:

'——— Lay on *Macduff*,
And sham'd be he that first cries hold, enough.'

MESSRS. EDITORS,

I HAVE lately met with the following Proclamation, and as I wish to communicate some information on the subject to which it refers, I have subjoined a few observations, which I hope will meet the attention, which I think they deserve.

COUNTER PROCLAMATION.

"RATIONAL RELIGION, having been reposing at ease for many years on the bosom of her children, now informs her offspring, that she

has been of late continually beset with her old enemies *Superstition* and *Intolerance*; that they have not only begun to undermine the foundation of her house, but are erecting a "*Battery*" for "christian warfare," the weapons of which are to be directed against her peace and happiness. This *battery* is already far advanced and *Superstition* and *Intolerance*, have not only gathered together all their children as soldiers for the garrison; but have issued proclamations tempting the children of Rational Religion to mutiny and desertion. She therefore feels herself necessitated to build up a fortification to protect her house, the guns of which are to be levelled by her eldest child *Reason*; she therefore notifies all her kindred to repair to her standard of *liberal opinions*, without delay, and she entertains no doubt of effectually neutralizing the efforts of her enemies, and checking their rapid progress in alienating the affections of her friends.

(Signed) "RATIONAL RELIGION."

This Counter Proclamation by *Rational Religion*, was promulgated a few weeks ago, and all her combatants are consulting upon measures of defence. The arrangements of the enemy are indeed formidable; they have already drilled into their service the host of *Ganters*, which formerly were wild and ungovernable, by adopting their manners and behaviour; so that the *regular soldier* of the Calvinistick corps is hardly to be distinguished either by his *exercise* or *tacticks*, from the numerous hordes who have heretofore wandered about under the bewildered command of *Inward Light*. The various troops of heavy artillery commanded by *Zeal of the Spirit*, perform their evolutions, of *groanings*, *violent eye-straining*, *sudden exclamation*, and *extravagant contortion*, with uncommon rapidity and efficacy. The Hopkinsian phalanx, the determination, power, and hostility of which are almost irresistible, is linked closer and closer, their weapons are more firmly fixed in the rest, and more evidently projected. Though they go *blindfolded* into the combat, they act with great unanimity; sensible that the issue, whether victory or defeat, is *fore-ordained* by their general, they are *happy to die for the glory of his service*. They are confident that a few only of the soldiers can live after the battle, and are therefore ready to oppose their front to every danger.

The light cavalry, under the conduct of *Inspiration* and *Special Grace*, who by the way are mounted on jack-asses, which indicates the *obstinacy* of their courage, have come into the field in excellent discipline and spirits. They have lately adopted the *old fashioned* armour of *Hypocrisy*, although they pretend their system is conformable to that of the *reformed* troops established many years ago. When they enter into an engagement, as they are decided enemies to *instrumental musick*, they set up a *braying and snuffling* in conjunction with the *asses* on which they are mounted; they then divide *into concerns*, *calls*,

and experiences, which are evolutions preparatory to what they esteem complete victory, or *hopeful conversion*; then they rush into combat, *shutting their eyes*, like their fellow soldiers in the Hopkinsian phalanx, as they consider their *sight* will bewilder them in morasses, and that all their manœuvres are *predestined*. They are direful opponents, for they imagine their enemies are *monsters by nature*, and *incapable of good deeds*, and themselves, after practising the evolutions above mentioned, are *necessarily* victors. They are *intolerant* disciplinarians; have cashiered *Charity* and *Good works*, two most excellent officers, and promoted *Fanaticism* and *Spiritual Influence* to their stations. The garrison in the battery are well supplied with ordnance and stores; *Faith* deals out provisions to them, and *Eternal Damnation* is prepared with his slow and ever burning match to apply to the great guns. They have collected a number of recruits, who are to be exercised every week in the peculiar evolutions, marches and countermarches of the garrison; and *once*, every *five years*, (for the war *is to be perpetual* though they always *talk* of *peace*,) they undergo a regular review, immediately commanded by *Intolerance*. If the recruits should be found deficient in the handling of ~~any weapon or the performing of any evolution, they~~ is either to be dismissed from the garrison, or to undergo the punishment which they have prepared for their enemies. This is no other than a sort of cauldron of burning bitumen, Greek fire and brimstone, of which they have found out the secret manufacture, and on which their prisoners will burn and be tormented without being killed as long as the war lasts. The care of this cauldron is confided to *Satan*, under whose command they imagine their enemies to be secretly enlisted; but whose person they have overcome and confined in their own service. After *holding forth* to their defective recruits and trying to lead them along by means of *Incomprehensibility*, who has a wonderful influence, as the chaplain of the camp; and endeavouring to show them the *necessity* of their abstracting themselves from *matter* and renouncing all *concerns* which have not *immediate relation to the garrison*; should they prove refractory they turn them over to *Satan* and the servants who wait upon him.

For their good soldiers, they have fountains of dirty water constantly flowing, in which they are allowed to bathe, after they are pronounced by the doctor to be clean purged from all influence, which their enemies might be supposed to have over them; to be freed from all *relationship or affinity* to them, and, as it were, to be *born again* through the instrumentality of *Grace* and *Special Interposition*, who are the parents of the re-organized corps. After they have passed their review, they go into these fountains; from which, though they in fact come out dirtier than they went in, their eyes being out, they are insensible to the circumstance; and perhaps their other senses grow imperfect in consequence of their eyes being blinded; since they imagine

the dirt which adheres to them to be so much sweetness both to the taste and smell."

Thus appointed and equipped are the armies of Intolerance and Superstition; and their array so formidable as almost to daunt the stoutest soldiers in the squadrons of Rational Religion. But they *love* their Queen, and are not governed by the influence of *fear*, like the soldiers of Intolerance; they are naturally brave and fearless, they fight with their *eyes open*. They have unanimously chosen *Charity* and *Good Works*, the excluded officers of the enemy, to important commands; they do not shrink from the encounter.

"Thin though their ranks though scanty be their bands,
Bold are their hearts and nervous are their hands."

Their chaplains, *Investigation* and *Controversy*, promise to give information from time to time of the extent of the enemy's forces, the nature of his preparations and the probabilities of the encounter. When I hear from them again, you shall again hear from

A Looker-on.

ABSURDITIES.

The poetry of Darwin, Southey, Della Crusca, and their whole train of copyists, has been most successfully ridiculed by Mr. Gifford, Mr. Canning and other criticks, who undertook, about ten years ago, to wield the weapons of satire, against all those notions of affected sensibility in morals and visionary systems in the laws of nature, which the above mentioned writers aimed to inculcate. Since their literary dissolution, Mr. Wordsworth has attracted a crowd of admirers for some metrical peculiarities and childish conceits. Yet he has such an evidence of better understanding amidst all his silliness, as induces the belief of his willingness to establish a ridiculous taste, not because he supposed it accurate, but to gratify some favourite propensity or whim. The writings of Dr. Darwin and Mr. Southey contained such plausible and fascinating diction, that their absurdities could be best exposed by *Parody*; but in order to show the defects of Mr. Wordsworth, it is only necessary to separate them from the beauties with which they are frequently accompanied, and the reader will be astonished, that his admiration for the author had ever been excited. As Mr. Wordsworth's poetry has been the theme of panegyrick in the politer circles in America, and as the taste of the boarding-school miss may easily be perverted by the perusal of the *whole* of the gentleman's compositons, we think we render some service to the publick, when we produce some of his peculiarities as subjects of reprobation. The following extracts are from his 'Poems.' His *Lyrical Ballads* we may take another occasion to examine.

In a piece denominated "The Beggars," the author exhibits a fair specimen of frivolous conceit, and infantine expression.

She had a tall man's height, or more;
No bonnet screen'd her from the heat;
A long drab-coloured cloak she wore,
A mantle reaching to her feet;
What other dress she had I could not know;
Only she wore a cap that was as white as snow.
Before me begging did she stand,
Pouring out sorrows like a sea;
Grief after grief;—on English land
Such woes I knew could never be;
And yet a boon I gave her; for the creature
Was beautiful to see; a weed of glorious feature!

He is attracted afterwards by two boys, who are as like their mother as peas are like peas, or, according to the poet, as "like that woman's face as gold is like to gold."

They bolted on me thus, and lo!
Each ready with a plaintive whine;
Said I, 'Not half an hour ago
Your mother has had alms of mine.'
'That cannot be,' one answered, 'she is dead.'
'Nay but I gave her pence, and she will buy you bread.'
'She has been dead, Sir, many a day.'
'Sweet boys, you're telling me a lie;
It was your mother as I say—'
And in the twinkling of an eye,
'Come, come!' cried one; and, without more ado,
Off to some other play they both together flew.

Hearing a sort of scream as he is driving into Durham, the poet calls out to the post-boy to stop, and he finds little 'Alice Fell,' who fell a crying, at the back of the carriage. The child getting up behind the vehicle, had entangled her cloak in the wheels. The poet thus informs us of the circumstance.

'My cloak!' the word was last and first,
And loud and bitterly she wept,
As if her very heart would burst;
And down from off the chaise she leapt.
'What ails you, child?' she sobb'd, 'Look here!'
I saw it in the wheel entangled,
A weather beaten rag as e'er
From any garden scarecrow dangled.

Our philanthropist now takes the child into the carriage; that is, after he had extricated the garment. And then he proceeds with the pretty, pretty story.

'My child, in Durham do you dwell?'
She check'd herself in her distress,
And said, 'My name is Alice Fell;
I'm fatherless and motherless.
And I to Durham, sir, belong.'
And then, as if the thought would choke
Her very heart, her grief grew strong;
And all was for her tatter'd cloak.
The chaise drove on; our journey's end
Was nigh; and, sitting by my side,
As if she'd lost her only friend
She wept, nor would be pacified.
Up to the tavern-door we post;
Of Alice and her grief I told;
And I gave money to the host,
To buy a new cloak for the old.
'And let it be of duffil grey,
As warm a cloak as man can sell!'
Proud creature was she the next day,
The little orphan, Alice Fell!

Among some compositions called 'Moods of my own Mind,' we have the following glowing effusions of wonderful sympathy and affection.

My heart leaps up when I when I behold
A rainbow in the sky:
So was it when my life began;
So is it now I am a man;
So be it when I shall grow old,
Or let me die!

Then comes the reason which produces all this, in which the metaphor very beautifully reverses the order of nature.

The *child is father* of the *man*;
And I could wish my days to be
Bound each to each by natural piety.

"A Sparrow's Nest," draws forth the ensuing rapture.

Look, five blue eggs are gleaming there!
Few visions have I seen more fair,
Nor many prospects of *delight*
More *pleasing* than this simple sight.

As the greater includes the less, we presume the author is justified in saying he derives *pleasure* from objects of *delight*; it is besides so novel a remark that he must feel wonderful *pleasure* in the *delight* of having invented it.

Poetry is intended to please, by introducing agreeable and dignified

topicks, which also inspire genius by pleasant associations; accordingly Mr. Wordsworth gives an account of 'A Blind Highland Boy,' who living near the sea, could not be prevented from adventuring on the dangerous flood. He chose a singular vehicle of conveyance, and Mr. W. has introduced it with all the dignity of which it is susceptible.

In such a vessel ne'er before
Did human creature leave the shore.
But say what was it?
A *Household Tub*, like one of those
Which women use to wash their clothes.

This sublime description is followed by sending out a real boat to bring back the boy, who sick of his adventure, promises *never to do so no more*, and so ends the tale.

If the reader is not already satiated, we think our concluding quotation, entitled 'Foresight,' will abundantly satisfy him.

That is work which I am rueing—
Do as Charles and I are doing!
Strawberry-blossoms, one and all,
We must spare them—here are many;
Look at it—the bower is small,
Small and low, though fair as any:
Do not touch it! summers two
I am older, Anne, than you.
Pull the primrose, sister Anne;
Pull as many as you can.

Primroses, the spring may love them—
Summer knows but little of them:
Violets, do what they will,
Wither'd on the ground must lie:
Daisies will be daisies still;
Daisies they must live and die:
Fill your lap and fill your bosom,
Only spare the strawberry-blossom!

FASHIONABLE FOLLY.

At a certain rout which was given a few weeks ago, two young ladies of fashion exhibited their charms so lavishly luxuriant, that it became a question among the beaux of the drawing-room, which of them, whether Miss **** or Miss ******, better understood the position of *Brest harbour*; which of them, in other words, exhibited the greatest knowledge of the subject. The unanimous determination was, that though Miss **** showed *all*, yet Miss ****** showed *more*.

THE

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N°. 3.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 21, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICKS.

It is not the disorder, but the physician; it is not a casual concurrence of calamitous circumstances; it is the pernicious hand of government, which alone can make a whole people desperate. JUNIUS.

REVIEW *of Mr. Giles's first Speech in the Senate of the United States, on the Resolution of Mr. Hillhouse to repeal the Embargo Laws.*

Continued from page 22.

IN entering into an examination of the second branch of Mr. Giles's defence of the administration, for continuing the Embargo Laws, we confess ourselves disappointed and provoked, that the arguments of a man who bears the name of Statesman, should not be grounded upon any important series of facts, but depend for their support on theoretick and visionary calculations in national policy, which every test by which they can be tried, determines to be fallacious, and which sound reason and common sense must utterly disclaim. We are naturally surprised to observe a philosopher persist in maintaining an hypothesis in science, after a long course of patient and critical investigation has evinced it false and inconclusive. But when the subject of the experiment is changed to a great and populous nation, when the whole nervous system of the political body is laid bare to the cold and unflinching hand of an ignorant operator, when every touch of the lancet draws forth the groans and convulsions of the suffering victim; what words can express our sensations when the surgeon declares, in spite of his ill-success, that he must probe yet deeper into the wound? Must we not believe him capable, through enmity and disappointment, of plunging his instrument into the heart of the patient, and stifle in the grave both the throes of despair and the remembrance of the assassination. Mr. Giles admits that cries of distress resound from one end of the continent to the other; he confesses the inefficacy of the experiment in determining the truth of the hypothesis; but declares his intention of persevering in the errour, though the nation should rise in rebellion, and the constitutional building be shaken to its foundation. One principal topick in his vindication of the Embargo measure, has for its foundation the circumstance of its *failure*. How then can he favour its continuance, when its execution at home becomes every day more impra-

ticable and unpopular, and its operations abroad become every day less injurious. Having admitted its *ill-success*, &c. of what consequence is it to enquire how success has been frustrated? Suppose our party dissensions, suppose the revolution in Spain to have been the causes, (which we by no means admit,) the argument is directly in the teeth of administration; for the difficulties resulting from the Spanish revolutions and our domestick discontents, are evidently increasing, and if they have been sufficient reasons for the present failure, are much stronger against the further continuance of the policy. It is always thus with tyrannical and oppressive measures; their advocate must confound himself in contradiction or conceal himself in subtlety, when the errour is open and palpable to the plainest principles of moral honesty and common sense.

The Embargo it was easy to foresee would be ineffectual in its *coercion* of the belligerent powers (even if it had not been manifestly intended to favour the French nation, and if the result had not determined its futility) which will be evident if we consider the state of our commercial negociations at the time of its adoption, the difficulties which conspired to impede them, and the little probable injury Great-Britain would sustain in consequence of its operation. The sentiments of the new British ministry relating to neutral commerce had been promulgated in various shapes; but particularly in the decisions of the admiralty courts, under Sir William Scott, and in the pamphlet of "War in Disguise," published before that ministry came into power. We know the sentiments of that work to be those of Mr. Canning, for they have since then been adopted in their utmost latitude. The President's rejection of the treaty obtained by Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, and the news of the Chesapeak disaster, were received in England nearly upon the heels of each other; and the temper of the English government towards us was proved, by its complete acquiescence in that rejection, though the treaty was negotiated under circumstances more favourable to the interests of the United States, than ever before existed. But the principles insisted on by our government, were so far strained, that Lords Holland and Aukland, at the present moment in the opposition, declared in relation to our proposition, with respect *to seamen in merchant ships*, that the British "government could not adopt it without taking on itself a responsibility, *which no ministry would be willing to meet, however pressing the emergency might be*;"* and this language was used by the very ministry who had before welcomed our commissioners, in these terms, "an attention which it will always be the pride of the foreign office to shew to the ministers of the United States, *our half countrymen*."† It was clear,

* Page 110, 111 of documents published by order of our government, March 22, 1808. † Page 77, ibid.

therefore, that our administration could never calculate upon further concessions in our favour, than the former British ministry had granted; and that the favourite principle of Mr. Madison, which is *the complete protection of every person sailing under the American flag in merchant vessels*, could never be acceded to by the new administration.

Our claims in respect to the prosecution of commerce, were equally repugnant to the present ministry. The idea of its granting the principle either of "*free ships, free goods*," or a further relaxation of the rule of war of 1756, must have been imaginary and delusive to all but very theoretic and speculative men. And though the West-India merchants and planters made the concessions granted to us in the rejected treaty, the occasion of great clamour against Mr. Fox and his friends, and indeed preferred them as charges for the removal of that ministry from power; yet Mr. Madison now contends for them, with as much confidence and pertinacity, as if the views of the United States alone, were to be consulted, and as if the English nation had no other right or interest, but to clear away the obstacles which intercept them. The opposition made to our commercial claims, was sufficiently notorious in England and in this country, insomuch that the English merchants concerned in West-Indian affairs, had become formidable enough to render the ministry exceeding jealous of all plans proposed by our minister at the Court of St. James, which could be viewed in any light repugnant to the feelings of so powerful a party.

Under such a state of publick sentiment in Great-Britain, the kind of probability existing, that the Embargo could produce a concession of the principles which it was its apparent intention to inforce, could be found only in such brains as those of Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison. For under any emergence, this sentiment would still continue in its fullest force; and the calculation was, that the distresses which we vainly flattered ourselves would be produced, were not likely to arrive.

Though the West-Indian colonies would probably be driven to a great strait, by a scarcity of flour and provisions; yet the idea of starving them, was always considered futile and ridiculous. Every principle of commerce was in direct repugnance to the notion; not only because the colonists would probably turn their attention to the culture of grain, and additional quantities of yams, and other vegetables; but because it was foreseen that there would be frequent evasions of the Embargo laws in this country. That the prices of every description of provisions, with which we were in the habit of supplying the West-Indies, would be greatly enhanced, was certainly evident; but at the same time it was equally apparent, that the English colonists could well afford to pay much more than usual for such supplies, because the evident effect of the measure in *Europe*, was to increase very considerably the demand for their own West-India productions. This will be rendered apparent, if the state of the colonies be considered at

the period when the Embargo was established; in which we shall discover the causes of the opposition to American commerce, just now referred to, as presenting formidable obstacles to the settlement of any definitive principles, on which our colonial trade might be prosecuted.

From a variety of causes, in the front of which, the interfering commerce of this country was arrayed as the principal, the British West-Indian concerns, were, in the years 1806 and 1807, involved in extraordinary calamity. The excessive cultivation of sugar all over the islands, produced a glut in the great market of the world; and the Americans supplied nearly the whole of continental Europe, with that article. The English on the other hand, were obliged to confine themselves to their home markets. It was apparent that we should supply the continental market with no more sugar than we could realize a profit upon, which of consequence threw back the whole surplus sugar of the world, upon the English merchants and planters. The result of all this was, that there arose a gradual accumulation of upwards of 100,000 hogsheads of sugar, which lay as a drug in the English market; being so much over and above the actual demand. This surplusage had reduced the average price of sugar from 65/4 per cwt. which was the estimate in the year 1800, to 33/6 per cwt. which was the mean price, for the first six months of 1807.* It seems also, that the actual cost of cultivation in the West-Indies, together with freight and insurance, amounted to 36/10 the same year; hence it follows that an absolute loss accrued to the planter, from the cultivation of his estate. All this difficulty was charged to the effects of American commerce, and of course the whole West-Indian interest was decidedly opposed to our government. The policy which they urged on Great Britain to adopt with respect to us, was to enforce the rule of war of 1756; and our Embargo has seconded their views more effectually than any other conceivable measure of their own ministry could possibly have done. By depriving the continent of the advantages of our supply of sugar (we confine ourselves to this single article for the sake of perspicuity) the Embargo created such a demand for the article, that the English found a vent for a great part of their surplusage; and of course it has considerably raised the price in Great Britain.

The quantity of sugar exported to the mother country, by all the English colonies, amounted to 2,810,915 cwt. in 1805, and in 1806 to 280,000 hogsheads, of 13 cwt. each, making a total of 3,640,000 cwt. An enhancement of 1 dollar per cwt. on this quantity, would produce 3,640,000 dollars. The quantity of *flour* exported to the English West-Indies from the United States, amounts, on an average, annually, to 431,504 barrels. During the Embargo they can receive no other

* Edinburgh Review, No. 21, p. 153.

supplies from us, than they obtain in a clandestine manner; therefore they must depend upon England and other countries for their immediate supply. The presumption is, however, from the *high price which the article now bears*, and from the attention of many of the colonies to the raising of food within themselves, that the West-Indies do now receive from abroad but little more than one third of their usual supply. That portion of this third, which is not obtained from England, cannot reasonably be supposed to amount to more than 71,917 barrels. Now it is manifest that the colonists could afford to pay 50 dollars 60 cents per barrel for this article, provided their sugar, in Europe, was enhanced in price only 1 dollar per cwt.! We will here subjoin a calculation founded upon facts, by which it will appear evident that the price of sugar has obtained an infinitely greater increase than we have just suggested; and it is also evident that flour has by no means risen to the price abovementioned, in the West-Indies. The mean price of sugar in England, the first six months of 1807, was 36/6 per cwt. Soon after the Embargo went into operation, it began to rise; in June, 1807, it was 40/8, and in September from 50/ to 51/ per cwt. Let us take the middle price for an estimate, and we discover a rise of 16/6 per cwt. on the article: which makes a difference between the two prices, on the whole amount of sugar imported into Great Britain of nearly 11,110,810 dollars. The article of Rum has also received an uncommon augmentation of value, from the operation of the Embargo: the spirit of ship building has revived in England, most astonishingly within the last year; and indeed the whole foreign trade of that country has greatly increased. These wonderful advantages, when combined with the effects of the measure, in restoring a large body of deserted seamen to the English navy, may fairly be placed as more than a counter balance to the evils of a scanty supply of staves in the West-Indies, and the losses the manufacturers in Great-Britain are obliged to sustain. These evils, on the other hand, we will venture to assert have been very much exaggerated by Mr. Giles; but even though they were as dreadful as the warmest advocate of the President could require, we think they present no motive to a concession of the most trifling doctrine of the British maritime laws. When we consider, that for the manufactures which we do now receive from England, we are obliged to pay most enormous prices; that the profits, on the raw materials which compose them, are mostly derived by the English colonists; whilst those on the manufactured articles are paid by us, and that the cotton, which we formerly supplied, is now rotting in our store houses: it is clear that the evils resulting to Great Britain, through the medium of her manufacturers, is overrated. The operation of the measure, relative to them, is in a double aspect unfavourable to us, and in only one view, inimical to that nation! The force of Mr. Giles's argument about the duties of 4 per cent. on the manufactures which we receive, is greatly

weakened from such considerations, since it takes for granted, that all her exports to this country, are necessarily at an end. It is vain to say, we will exclude the admission of English manufactures into our country; the impossibility which the Emperor Napoleon, with all his power, has experienced in a similar attempt in his dominions, speaks a lesson to us more forcible than the most powerful language, on the impracticability of such a policy. But we ask pardon; the hint of the *impracticability of a measure is an argument with our government in favour of its adoption.*

It is only by estimates calculated from the interests of the whole nation, that we can draw a conclusion as to the course which Great-Britain will pursue, or that any just determination can be discovered. The Embargo, therefore, is favourable to that nation in another view; it facilitates her blockade of the French colonies; and affords her a better opportunity of assailing them, than at that happy period, when our ships with various supplies, whitened every sea. The English colonies of Upper and Lower Canada, are notoriously benefitted by the continuance of this measure; and as to the supply of the West-India islands with staves and lumber, which Mr. Giles relies upon as impossible from any other country than the United States, we would only refer him to the shipments already made from Quebeck.

We consider the reasons we have produced, as quite apparent and conclusive; and as affording a sufficient solution of the refusal of Great-Britain to alter her Orders in Council, in our favour: but whether the Embargo had been effectual or not, we think it manifest that the British ministry would not be disposed to rescind those orders in any extremity, considering *the hostile temper in which the Embargo originated,* and *the commercial pretensions which our government most pertinaciously maintained.* It is, however, probable, from Mr. Canning's observations on the measure, that he was rather pleased with its effects, than irritated at its adoption. We are contented to draw this inference, from a part of his opinion, cited by Mr. Giles. "If," says this minister, "the Embargo be a municipal regulation, which effects none but the United States themselves, and with which no foreign nation has any concern; viewed in this light, *his majesty does not conceive that he has any right or pretension to make any complaint, and he has made none!*" It is clear from this expression, that the English government care nothing about the Embargo; or, if they do, are pleased with its operation; and that as they hitherto have not, so neither will they ever perceive a pretension to complain of it.

Admitting however, for a moment, that its *coercion* abroad is intolerable; admitting the West-India islands to be greatly distressed, without deriving any counter-balancing advantages, and that the American supplies are almost indispensible to the European nations, yet we will venture to maintain that Great-Britain could not rescind her Orders in

consequence of that distress, without relinquishing her national dignity and honour in the first instance, and her dearest national interests in the second.

Her *avowed* intention, (we will not maintain that it was *real*,) but her avowed intention was to retaliate on France, for her Berlin decree of November 21, by her Orders in Council; and her Proclamation in relation to her seamen, of October 16, 1807, promulgated the principle, that she would seize her deserters in whatever merchant vessel she should find them. If therefore, her Orders in Council were taken off to-morrow, it would be a virtual admission before the world, that she could not maintain that measure against France. But the repeal of her Orders would not be sufficient for Mr. Madison, without a concession of that part of the *Proclamation* respecting English deserters in American merchant ships; because he has more than once required our ministers in London, to break off all negotiations with Great-Britain, unless our claims in respect to seamen under such circumstances were acceded to. This point must also be yielded, or our government can have no commerce with England; and if yielded, Great-Britain disavows a principle on which her very existence as a nation most clearly and indisputably depend.

Thus it is unquestionable that Great-Britain could not rescind her Orders or Proclamation, without sacrificing the principles which she is pledged before the world to maintain, and without relinquishing to us, her enemy, her most evident and important interests.

On the whole then, we conceive it to be apparent, that the effects of the Embargo are unimportant as respects Great-Britain; or if otherwise, the balance of interest is rather in her favour, especially if our own distress be taken into account; it is clear that she never has, and we think, never will complain of it; and besides, if it were ever so distressing in its operations on that nation, she never could, for many reasons, grant a concession to America.

(To be continued.)

TEMPER OF THE TIMES.

To ——— ———,

THE many peculiarities of errour and turpitude by which the present administration of government, has been most shamefully disgraced, have stamped your character with such distinguishing marks of depravity, that to the future historian, it will only be necessary to mention a measure to be Jeffersonian, and the world will be ready to believe it inexpedient, unconstitutional, and corrupt. They will easily confess, that the man who would betray a friend, would sacrifice his country;

and that the body, corrupted, as yours has been, by appetites the most unnatural, would of course be accompanied by a heart of the most deadly venom, and principles of the most destructive tendency. This letter is addressed to you, not in the delusive hope of your amendment, but that your successor may take warning from your example. That *he* may be induced to consider the universal detestation which *you* have excited, as a sort of memento to deter him from similar excesses; and to teach him, when the particular interests of any part of the community, and the constitutional rights of the whole are invaded, that not only the *very existence of the nation* is threatened, but that there is even some danger to be apprehended from the efforts of its accumulated resentment.

The philosophick dignity, and humble acquiescence of your inaugural address, afforded no indication, but to those who penetrated your hypocrisy, of those violent measures which have since marked the course of your administration; and those personal partialities and malignant resentments which have added new graces to your private character. Without daring, at first, to intimate the slightest displeasure at a difference of political opinion, we noticed your fruitless attempts to reconcile your opposers by smooth expressions, and excessive sensibility; and indeed it was not until you thought yourself perfectly secure in the favourable prejudices which you had excited among the people, that you had courage enough to unfold the perfidy of your real disposition. No sir, your ambition, like your passions, you satisfy by treachery; and as, to compass the one, your care not for the fate of the victim; so to gratify the other, you are regardless of the prosperity of the empire.

It would lead me into an exhaustless field of censure, were I to chase you through all the windings of your political race, and beat every bush which conceals some of your perfidious transactions. Your conduct has been so subtle, that your most corrupt proceedings have often been attributed to anxiety for the publick welfare: you have so mantled your vices, that the world have mistaken plausibility for reason, and affected zeal for true sincerity of disposition. But reflecting men have ever known you, and they would long ago have been reduced to the last state of desperation, had they not taken refuge from the dangers of your wickedness, in the cowardice of your heart. By some unaccountable fatality, however, they are now to be disappointed. Either they have mistaken your courage, or there is some hidden corner of inconsistency in your mind, which has not yet been penetrated. You have perhaps thought of your favourite plan of the extirpation of commerce, until you have believed the people would submit to its oppression; or what is still more probable, you have wished to complete the turpitude of your character, by leaving your successor to sustain the resentment of the people, when you shall have eluded the vehemence of their fu-

ry. This *I* own is the probable calculation of such a mind as yours; but I trust the people will have too much good sense, even in the violence of the passions, not to level the bolt of their revenge against the head of their oppressor. You sir, have reserved for the end of your course this last black act, to shed if possible, a more malignant shade upon the rank and poisonous weeds of your former life.

This act only was required to complete the inconsistencies of your political conduct. We have seen you pay the libeller of Washington, and then weep over the tomb of the hero; we have seen you befriend Mr. Munroe, in order to desert him; we have seen you the most abject slave to the dictates of tyranny, and a high-handed brawler for the rights of the people; we have seen the laws treacherously relaxed in favour of Wilkinson, and strained in prosecuting Burr; and at length we have seen you, in order to give a death blow to the interests of our commerce, plunge your dagger through the vesture of the constitution. This last act is indeed practicing fully upon the principles of your writings; your Notes on Virginia, promulgated a doctrine, which your conduct as president has enforced. Hatred is the necessary feeling at your common transactions, but in this instance it is displaced by astonishment; for your last deed has been an act of *danger*. Had it been merely wicked or disgraceful, it would have been viewed as common to the administration, and corresponding with the tenour of the presidential character.

The fifth Embargo law, too, is essentially different from any of your other measures, as it is entirely destitute of every species of plausibility for its defence. You have declared not in language, but in deeds, that the inefficiency of a policy, is no bar to its adoption, though it involve the ruin of the nation; and that the ramparts of the constitution are no defence against the unprincipled ambition of a ruler. You have at last reduced the examination of your conduct, to a question which the most inferiour understanding can decide. This I confess surprises me, for while your perfidy was only to be detected by perspicacity of argument and investigation, you were safe from publick resentment; for the people cannot be reasoned into belief, they must feel their injuries before they will avenge them. You have ventured forth into the sea of tyranny, depending on the popular breath to waft you into harbour. The basis on which you have erected your last Embargo bill is too weak to sustain the building. Already the earthquakes of publick clamour have shaken it to its foundation; would to God the desolation which will follow, might whelm the contrivers in exemplary destruction. You have hitherto maintained your popularity; you have been supported by the people in the calmness of domestick security, and serenity of general happiness; but are you prepared for your fate, when they shall rise in the tumult of their indignation, supported by the majesty of their strength, and defended by the barriers of the constitution.

Do you hope that the people will submit to the invasion of their rights, because you command a servile majority in Congress; or do you vainly imagine that your newly raised army will join with you to subvert the liberties of the country, by enforcing unconstitutional measures? They, we trust are true Americans; and though they know their duty as soldiers, they will remember their rights as citizens. If their swords are to be pointed at the enemies of their country; let them proceed to the source of the evil, and wreak their vengeance at Washington.

You have treated the northern states with indignity and insult; with insult which has made them feel their spirit and indignity, which will make you feel their power. Your publick correspondence has branded them with the epithet of *worthless;* and your private conduct and personal manners, have contributed to insult them by reproaches or neglect. But the citizens of the commercial states understand the rights which the constitution has secured to them; that instrument they consider the bible of their faith in the administration; where your doctrines are repugnant to the letter and spirit of that political creed, they will not deem it heresy to disobey them. And if their disobedience calls forth the restrictive energies of the government, it is clear the interests, the rights, the liberties and independence of the people, will first have been abridged and then overthrown.

But sir, as you have already gone too far, beware how you proceed; the inhabitants of these states have been sufficiently oppressed, insulted and abused; they have hitherto submitted to your tyrannies without absolute resistance: but, if you advance beyond your *parchment hostility*, if you proceed to *violent means* in the execution of your will, the consequences may lead to a death-bed repentance. But as this is at all times seriously to be avoided, I now warn you not to push your persecution of the people to the last extremity. "You may live long enough to make the experiment;" but death is the fate of mortals.

MARCUS BRUTUS.

THE CONTRAST

"*Between the Death of a Deist and the Death of a Christian.*"

IF the temper with which some good christians enter into controversies on speculative doctrines, bore any proportion in point of moderation, to that which is generally discovered among sceptical writers, we should stand a much better chance of discovering through the mist of errour and dispute, the great object of our enquiry. But unhappily there is a kind of intolerant zeal, and enthusiastick rage, operating in the minds of some orthodox people of really good intentions, and well

disposed views, which counteract the beneficial tendencies of their virtues, their principles, and their actions. They have such an abhorrence of heresy, that they think they can discover it on the most common occasions; and a man is almost denounced by them, as an absolute infidel, who will not fully believe the doctrine of the natural corruption of human nature, and the depravity of all actions and habits previous to conversion: who will not readily admit the necessity of special regeneration, the belief of election, and of course, everlasting punishment, by means of hell-fire. In a periodical work, published in Boston, entitled "The Panoplist," the paroxysms of zeal, which we have just referred to, are frequently very violent, and seem almost to choak the authors with their wrathful effects. Sometimes they exhibit themselves in philipicks against people "*who call themselves christians*;" at other times in a profuse, and we had almost said, impious use of the language of the sacred scriptures, upon trivial topicks, and an indiscriminate mixture of the inspired phraseology, with the tiresome, stale and trite expressions of the editors. A most ridiculous cant in style and sentiment, equally removed from genuine piety and good taste, affords another indication of the existence of these zealous effusions.

We are not now disposed to enter at large into the tedious and unprofitable discussion, which an examination of the general merits of this work, would necessarily produce; nor should we have been induced to notice it all, if its reputation had rested solely on its intrinsick worth: but we are induced to make a few remarks on a particular article which has attracted our attention, as well because we think its tendendency is far from being beneficial to the cause of religion, which it undertakes to espouse, as because the work which contains it, astonishing as it may seem, has a very extensive circulation. We cannot but regret that these violent overboilings of the spirit which we so peculiarly distinguish it, are likely to quench the very fire of devotion, by which they were at first set in motion.

The article to which we allude, is contained in "The Panoplist" of last November, entitled "a contrast between the death of a deist, and the death of a christian; being a succinct account of that celebrated infidel *David Hume*, Esq. and of that *excellent minister of the Gospel, Samuel Finley*, D. D. in their last moments." This contrast, however, was written, it seems by the Rev. Dr. Mason, of New-York, and published in the Christian's Magazine, from which the editors of the Panoplist have extracted it, "first, to *benefit their readers*," and "secondly, to make them acquainted with a periodical work," which they affirm "is edited with peculiar ability, and does honour to our country." We shall not be justly chargeable with unrelenting severity in making some animadversions on this article, as a part of the Panoplist, after the full and complete panegyrick the editors have lavished upon it, which we

think, quite sufficient to make them responsible for all the absurdities which it may be found to contain.

We would by no means be understood to step forward as vindicators of the deistical character of Hume; we trust we hold his works to be as dangerous, as the most enthusiastick bigot can imagine them to be; but we do say, that the manner of the death of that great writer, makes nothing for or against the doctrines of christianity, and that the attempt of Doctor Mason, to torture language into ambiguities of meaning to suit his purposes, is inconsistent with the dignity of the christian character, and not in any respect calculated to extend the diffusion of truth. Much less is the ridiculous account which is given of the death of Doctor Finley advantageous to the cause of religion. There is no rational man but must consider his language and conduct, in the light of incoherent jargon, and visionary delusion.

The death of Mr. Hume is related by Dr. Adam Smith, in a letter to William Strathan, Esq. in which he very plainly, and feelingly informs him of the circumstances which led to, and followed his dissolution; of the conduct of Mr. Hume, under his disease, the cheerfulness of his deportment, his agreeable conversation with his friends; and concludes by giving an estimate of the value of his moral and intellectual character. There is nothing throughout this account, which has a tendency to prove the christian religion either better or worse; it is a mere isolated fact, and has no bearing whatever on the truth or falsehood of the religious systems in the world.

The account of Dr. Finley's decease, on the contrary, seems evidently prepared for the object, it is by no means likely to promote, a more general enthusiasm in religious opinions. The style of his conversation generally absurd, is often impious, and frequently ridiculous; and we are astonished that Dr. Mason, and the editors of the Panoplist, could not dispose of their talents in any more profitable way, than in making comparisons, which, if they have any effect whatever, are more calculated to defeat, than promote the interests which they so warmly espouse. We have said the language of Dr. Finley was often incoherent jargon, absurd, and frequently impious and ridiculous; we think the following expressions will warrant our assertions.

Being asked by the Rev. Mr. Treat, who had visited him for the purpose of prayer, "what he should pray for," he answered, "beseech God that he would make me feel just as I did at that time when I *first closed with Christ*, at which time I could scarce contain myself out of heaven!"* This is absurd enough, if not impious.

One said "you will soon be joined to a blessed society; you will ever converse with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, with the *spirits of just men made perfect;* with old friends, and many old fashioned people."

* Panoplist, p. 245.

"Yes sir," he replied, with a smile, "but they are most polite people now."* Now if this is not ridiculous, and joking with sacred things, language cannot convey meaning. He would sometimes cry out, "the Lord Jesus take care of his cause in this world." Why? why clearly, because Mr. Finley was about to leave it; what is this but arrogance and presumption? Waking this morning, "Oh! what a disappointment have I met with; I expected this morning to have been in heaven!" In one place he says with a strong voice; "Oh I shall triumph over every foe! The Lord hath given me victory! I exult! I triumph! Now I know that it is impossible that faith should not triumph over earth and hell!" And yet directly underneath, he felt qualms of conscience, and desired Mr. Spencer to "*pray that God would preserve him from evil*, and keep him from dishonouring his great name at this critical hour." What is this but incoherence? And to crown the whole, he is celebrated for his politeness and gentlemanly behaviour, as a special trait of christian faith and resignation. "His truly *polite* behaviour continued to the last, and manifested itself whenever he called for a drop of drink to wet his lips. Every one around him was treated with the same sweetness."

This is the last peculiarity, which in our opinion, could fairly be produced to determine the superiority of a christian to an infidel at the hour of dissolution. From what has already been extracted, we think our readers may be able to form some opinion of the value of Mr. Finley's death, to the cause of rational religion. We shall notice in our next number, some of the inferences which the Rev. Dr. Mason, unwarrantably draws from the circumstances attending the deaths both of Mr. Hume and Dr. Finley, and shall use our endeavours to dissipate the thick cloud of superstition by which they are enveloped.

POETRY.

We have lately met with the following 'Reckoning with Time,' with 'Time's Answer,' from the pen of George Colman, and as both the wit and manner, are pleasing; as the author's merits "challenge much respect" and as the tendency of the productions, is rather to ridicule the modern absurdities of the drama, we think no other apology is necessary for our offering them to our readers. If any captious person, however, should demand a further excuse, we have only to say, that the compositions are not easily procured, and that we could not readily discover any thing more appropriate for our poetical department.

* Ibid. p. 246.

A RECKONING WITH TIME.

BY GEORGE COLMAN, THE YOUNGER.

COME on, old Time!—nay, that is stuff;
Gaffer! thou com'st on fast enough;
  Wing'd foe to feather'd Cupid!
But, tell me, Sand-man! ere thy grains
Have multiplied upon my brains
  So thick, to make me stupid;

Tell me, death's journey man! but no,
Hear thou *my* speech; I will not grow
  Irrev'rent while I try it:
For though I mock thy flight, tis said,
Thy fore-lock fills me with such dread
  I *never take thee by it.*

List, then, old *Is*, *Was*, and *To be!*
I'll state accounts twixt thee and me:
  Thou gav'st me, first, the measles:
With teething would have ta'en me off,
Then mad'st me with the hooping-cough
  Thinner than fifty weasles.

Thou gav'st small-pox (the dragon, now
That Jenner combats on a cow;)
  And then, some seeds of knowledge;
Grains of the Grammar, which the flails
Of pedants thrash upon our tails,
  To fit us for a college.

And when at Christ-Church, 'twas thy sport
To rack my brains, with sloe-juice port,
  And lectures out of number;
There fresh-man Folly quaffs and sings,
While graduate, Dulness clogs thy wings
  With mathematick lumber.

Thy pinions next, (which, while they wave,
Fan all our birth-days to the grave,)
  I think, ere it was prudent,
Balloon'd me from the schools to town,
Where I was *parachuted* down
  A dapper Temple Student.

Then much in dramas did I look;
Much slighted thee, and great Lord Coke;
  Congreve beat Blackstone hollow:
Shakespeare made all the statutes stale,
And in *my* crown, no place had Hale,
  To supercede Apollo.

Ah, Time! these raging heats I find,
Were the mere dog-star of my mind,
How cool is *retrospection!*
Youth's gaudy summer solstice o'er,
Experience yields a mellow store,
An autumn of reflection.

Why did I let the god of song
Lure me from law, to join this throng,
Gull'd by some slight applauses?
What's verse to A, when *versus* B?
Or what John Bull, a comedy,
To pleading John Bull's causes?

But though my child-hood felt disease,
Though my lank purse, unswoll'n by fees
Some ragged muse has netted,
Still honest Chronus! 'tis most true
To thee, (*and faith, to others too,*)
I'm very much indebted!!

For thou hast made me gaily tough,
Enur'd me to each day that's rough,
In hopes of calm to-morrow;
And when, old mower of us all,
Beneath thy sweeping scythe I fall,
Some *few dear friends* will sorrow.

Then though my idle prose, or rhyme,
Should half an hour out live my time,
Pray bid the stone engravers,
Where'er my bones find church-yard room,
Simply to chissel on my tomb,
"*Thank Time for all his favours.*"

TIME'S REPLY.

DEAR George, thy retrospective glance
Has check'd me in my mad advance.
This old truth to arrive at;
Of all who hunt for fame or gain,
Or plough the meadow or the main,
Not one "contentus vivat."

Leave common law to common men;
Believe me, George, thy nervous pen,
A brighter cause espouses;
Yok'd to the rumbling dray of law,
Let others empty pleadings draw,
'Tis thine to draw full-houses.

How many votaries of the muse,
My sand, as blotting-pa er use:
With politicks some fill me;
While *at a sing-song house*, I'm told,
Where foreign *notes* are chang'd for *gold*,
Some *beat* and others *kill* me.

Thou know'st *my little winning ways*,
I live by *eating modern plays*;
A milk and water diet:
But *thou* wouldst starve me, selfish man,
Go gnaw thy pen; I never can,
'Twould break my teeth to try it.

When wilt thou write like other men?
Observe your brethren of the pen,
How scornfully I treat 'em;
Like oysters, (sorrowful to tell)
Their plays no sooner quit the shell,
Than, *presto, pass*, I eat 'em.

While others in oblivion waste
Time, the Ithuriel spear of taste,
Shall still thy dramas treasure;
They're one and all so truly good,
That though they never give me food,
They always give me pleasure.

Thus sailing down life's eddying pool
My wings shall fan thy passions cool;
Psha! cease this idle pother:
My eyes grow dim, give me your hand,
One half my glass is choak'd with sand,
Let's fill with wine the other!

Long may'st thou flourish, wisely gay,
Till my own fore-lock turns to grey;
And when old Pluto's raven
Shall croak thee to thy narrow room,
The passenger, upon thy tomb
Shall read these lines engraven:

"Within this monumental bed,
Appolo's favourite rests his head;
Ye mourners cease your grieving:
A son, the father's loss supplies;
Be comforted, though COLMAN dies,
His 'HEIR AT LAW' *is living!*"

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 4.] SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICKS.

It is not the disorder, but the physician; it is not a casual concurrence of calamitous circumstances; it is the pernicious hand of government, which alone can make a whole people desperate. JUNIUS.

REVIEW *of Mr. Giles's first Speech in the Senate of the United States, on the Resolution of Mr. Hillhouse to repeal the Embargo Laws.*

Continued from page 39.

THE result of our investigation of Mr. Giles's defence of the administration is conclusive of its inadequacy to protect the objects which the continuance of the Embargo is obviously intended to promote. It seems clear, that the measure is neither coercive nor precautionary; but on the contrary, is advantageous to one belligerent, and satisfactory to another. Mr. Giles's arguments rest wholly upon this basis, and we think cannot be maintained, unless visionary notions are to overthrow the tests of calculation and the propositions of experience. There are some other considerations, in relation to this subject, which have occurred to us in the progress of our analysis, which may further conduce to determine its injustice as well as its impolicy.

If the Embargo is to be viewed abroad, as a measure of hostility and coercion, it is manifestly unjust in its operation, because it affects those friendly powers with whom we have been in the habits of commercial intercourse. Sweden, for example, has a right to be offended with the coercion of this measure. Her trade with us, is considerably extensive, and we evidently deprive her of many advantages, in consequence of our perseverance in the policy. What answer can we give to her, should she feel, herself injured and claim redress? Why, probably we should say it is merely a municipal regulation, which every country has an undoubted right to adopt. In this case we hold out the double language of hypocrisy; *at home*, we talk of coercing foreign nations; *abroad*, the Embargo is merely a measure of precaution and internal regulation with which no nation has a right or pretension to interfere. If it be an internal regulation, all the objects which it

was, *as such*, designed to be produced by it, are already and long ago affected; and may be taken off because it is unnecessary, or rather, because its present effects are the very *reverse* of precaution. But government cannot raise it, it is contended, without obvious disgrace, they have pledged themselves to the world, and cannot recede from the position they have taken, without an acknowledgment of their inability. Government cannot urge this as a plea for not removing a measure intrinsically and constitutionally wrong. It cannot be met like another question of national policy. If the administration have committed a most palpable and egregious blunder, are the people first to suffer, and then support them in their perversity and errour? This argument, however, is entirely inconclusive, for if the Embargo be merely municipal, how can government be disgraced by removing it? Those persons who urge such objections, confound themselves in evident contradictions. In order to palliate the complaints made by those nations who are friendly to us, we call the measure simply a municipal regulation; and when it is shewn, that in *that* aspect it is nugatory in its operation, and ought to be removed; it then changes into a *coercive* policy, operating so powerfully upon foreign nations as is calculated to obtain great concessions in our favour. So much contrariety of result cannot have justice for its basis; the same propositions cannot without false reasoning produce opposing conclusions. Viewed however, in both the lights in which the administration have contemplated it, we are equally convinced of the impolicy of the measure, and of the treachery of government.

A policy, which if it were ever so necessary, would be oppressive, must be shewn to be necessary before it will be allowed to be just. If it should prove ineffectual by experience, *it is of necessity tyrannical.* Considered in this aspect, it is not only *intrinsically* despotick, but it can be *enforced only by tyranny.* This enforcement seems to be a consequence of its constituent formation. The act is oppressive and unnecessary; it is consequently *tyrannical* in itself, and *implies* tyranny in its execution. It is therefore repugnant *to the constitution*, not only because its object could not peaceably be obtained, without invading undoubted rights; but because, in carrying it into forcible effect, *other* rights equally valuable must be overthrown. If therefore, government persist in the policy, the people may possibly resist. If they resist, what is to become of the constitution? It is evident we fought for civil liberty, and our bill of rights expresses those blessings which it was its intention to secure. But if any unjust and unnecessary law invade those most inestimable rights; there is some danger arising to the constitution itself, which was established for the preservation of those rights. Such a state of things should produce extreme caution in the minds of our rulers; especially if it be considered, that the constitution must depend for its permanency on the will of those who erected it; and

that it unites in one mass, a set of heterogeneous and unnatural bodies, which will naturally fly asunder on the application either of some exteriour attraction, or an introduction of some fluid, inconsistent with the cohesion of the composition. Congress should beware how they occasion the dismemberment of the compact, by persisting in a measure which is ruinous, unnecessary, tyrannical and unconstitutional, however favourably it be contemplated, and however mildly enforced.

The effects of the Embargo on the state of society, is not less prejudicial, than in relation to our political rights. Those people, who for the last year have been waiting anxiously for the change of the stream, and have seen it roll on, enlarging as it flows, from the idleness and perplexity natural to such a state, have been exceedingly relax in their morals and behaviour. It cannot be doubted that the tendency of such a law as turns men from their common occupations, must be repugnant to the moral quiet of civil society: it draws out the very sinews of industry, from the arm of labour; and causes in the relaxation of pleasure, and the gratification of passion, a more general prevalence.

Mr. Giles relies very strongly on our domestick dissensions to prove that the success of the Embargo policy has been frustrated in consequence; but this is paying a very poor compliment to the foresight or policy of the administration. Those dissensions of which he complains have existed ever since the present administration came into power; it is inherent in the nature of republican governments, that they should exist. To have made the fact of any importance, in his argument, he should have proved that a continuance of the Embargo policy would be likely to diminish the force of opposition; but so far from this, he talks just afterwards, very nonsensically to be sure, but he talks a great deal about rebellion; and of the ability of government to enforce the laws they have formed. If therefore, those laws have been defeated by our domestick discontents; if Great-Britain, in consequence of them, when they have been confined in their extent, and existing merely in words, has been prevented from altering her Orders in Council, in our favour; the result must be, that she will continue more rigorously to enforce them, now that the opposition is become more systematick, popular and violent.

The truth is, that our party dissensions form no part of the reasons which have induced Great-Britain to persist in the measures she has adopted. The causes are evidently; 1st. The interests she has in the continuance of the Embargo. The revolution in Spain, the relief of the English West-India colonies from a pressure of calamity, and the prosperity of her North-American possessions, are such appeals to her interests, as she cannot withstand; and the continuance of the Embargo operates in favour of them all.

. . . . . .

2d. The hostile temper of the present administration of government which is rendered apparent in all our negociations with that power. It is evident first, in our commercial claims, which maintain the principle of "free ships, free goods," the universal protection of seamen under the American flag, in merchant ships, and the unlimited enjoyment of the indirect trade from the colonies to the mother country, to the enemy, in time of war. This hostile temper, was also made evident, by various official proclamations, and the unaccommodating clogs placed in the way of negociation with Great-Britain; but more particularly in a decidedly different deportment in our transactions with the French Emperour.

3d. The *avowed* object of the Orders in Council. As that measure was ostensibly adopted in order to retaliate on France, it cannot be removed until France consents to rescind her decrees, which although it is evidently her interest to do, she probably will continue to refuse.

We do not intend to be considered the advocates of Great-Britain in the injurious policy which it is the intention of the Orders in Council to carry into operation: on the contrary, we are ready to meet the question at any time, and wholly oppose the right of the British ministry to promulgate such a measure. France, to be sure, offered the first example of the profligacy of the doctrine, but that example is no justification to either party. All we mean to prove at present, is that *our Embargo* is not the means which is calculated to insure the removal of those orders; and that while abroad it is ineffectual, it is tyrannical at h[illegible]

The question here recurs of "what is to be done?" We say, at all events LET THE EMBARGO BE REMOVED; the longer it continues, our distress increases, and the advantages to foreign nations multiply. Then the question will be, "shall we have war?" and if so, "with whom?" Or shall we pursue a more magnanimous policy? first by evincing a spirit of accommodation, which shall lead us to the relinquishment of doubtful rights, and of those formalities of negociation, which ceremony and not our honour dictate; and then (if we should fail of success, after all our concessions) let us exhibit another kind of spirit, a spirit of resistance, and a determination to enforce our *just* rights by our power, when we cannot attain them by our negociations. In the mean time we should put our national energies into immediate requisition; let us put ourselves into an attitude of defence, and then if our enemy insult us, we can meet him upon equal terms.

The difficulties in our future negociations with Great-Britain will derive most uncommon force, from the original impolicy of the Embargo laws. It has told her how well she can do without us, and proves to her the full extent of our hostility, as far as a total deprivation of our trade can go. She now is experiencing the various advantages which have resulted to her, some in consequence of the Embargo, and some not; but all of them depending on its continuance. She will not be

easily removed from the advantageous basis on which she has grounded her orders. The United States have never witnessed a period more deplorable than this, whether we consider it in relation to the peculiar situation of the belligerent powers, or to the impolicy of our own government, in their exteriour negociations. We are not, however, prepared to assert in unequivocal terms, that our safety and happiness cannot be restored, consistently with the punctilios of honour and the rights of independence. "There is no extremity of distress, which of itself ought to reduce a great nation to despair," is the remark of a great political writer; let us change our physician, or let him change his prescriptions, and hope will no longer languish in inaction, but revive to the prospects of returning prosperity.

We have now finished our contemplated review of Mr. Giles's argument on the Embargo laws: his style is every where distinguished by the modern peculiarities contained in the diction of both Mr. Jefferson and Mr. Madison, without the incorrectness which depreciates the composition of the former, or the ingenuity which sometimes characterizes the expressions of the latter. Mr. Giles is no where eloquent. When he attempts a flight, his wings seem clipped, he rises only to fall; he has no buoyancy to preserve his elevation. On the whole, we think the merits of this speech to be manifestly overrated; for whatever may be its plausibility, it certainly has very little strength of argument to support it; it is in our opinion, entirely visionary in the ideas; and although ostentatious, yet inaccurate and stale in the expression. If the present administration of government can find no better defender, they had better relinquish argumentation, and again adopt the safer policy of dumb legislation, and closed doors.

POETRY.

OF the imitators of the poetry of the NEW SCHOOL, we do not know any who has been more successful, or whose fame has been more widely extended by the adulation of panegyrick, than Mr. Henry Kirke White. His sensibility is excessive; every thing that exists under the customary state of things is wrong, and utopian schemes of unattainable felicity, of pastoral happiness, of German sentiment and feeling, are continually inspiring the imagination of his muse. He is like a number of other modern poetasters, morally mad: the force of custom, in neglecting certain vices, is absolute oppression; the *pang* of the *punishment* is alone to be considered, though the *crime* be ever so glaring.

The German poet is delighted with the secret sympathies of human nature, which unite hearts indissolubly, though the persons who possess them, had never before seen each other; he evinces his delight in the perfectability of man, by palliating the crimes of the poor, and exaggerating the vices of the powerful. His feelings expand at the sight of human depravity in distress, congeal at the intimation of greatness in good fortune, and are gratified at the slips and errours committed by those who are in exalted stations.

That Mr. White has tendencies of this kind, cannot be doubted by those who are acquainted with his distempered compositions. We have subjoined one of them, together with an imitation of our own, that our readers may see not only in how ridiculous a taste it is written; but that the object of it is unworthy of the eulogies and sympathies which he lavishes upon her.

We have extracted also, for the satisfaction of our readers, an Ode on this very Mr. White, which will exhibit a specimen of the encomiums which have been most profusely and undeservedly bestowed upon his genius.

ODE.

ON THE LATE HENRY KIRKE WHITE.

AND is the Minstrel's voyage o'er?
And is the star of genius fled?
And will his magick harp no more,
Mute, in the mansions of the dead,
Its strains seraphick pour?

A pilgrim in this world of woe,
Condemn'd, alas! awhile to stray,
Where bristly thorns, where briers grow,
He bade, to cheer the gloomy way,
Its heav'nly musick flow.

And oft he bade, by fame inspir'd,
Its wild notes seek the ætherial plain,
Till angels, by its musick fir'd,
Have, list'ning, caught th' ecstatick strain—
Have wonder'd and admir'd.

But now secure on happier shores,
With choirs of sainted souls he sings,
His harp th' omnipotent adores,
And from its sweet, its silver strings,
Celestial musick pours.

And tho' on earth no more he'll weave
The lay that's fraught with magick fire,
Yet oft shall Fancy hear at eve,
His now exalted, heav'nly lyre,
In sounds Æolian grieve.

This will be sufficient to prove the admiration which this postaster has excited; the following is one of his most serious compositions; it is called the Prostitute, which character seems to awaken all his sensibility. Her weeping eye, the anguish of her heavy heart, her meretricious glances, her loathsomeness, her hollow eyes, are all objects of virtuous sympathy. He takes for granted, that such a class of females, as a body, have been *seduced* into infamy; and of course the seducers are branded with all the vengeance he can inflict;

"God of the red right arm! where is thy thunder-bolt?"

But his notion of things assumes as certain, what is, to speak generally, very wide of the truth. He sees a wretch debased by crime and covered with infamy, and he immediately, from no other cause, imagines *her to have been innocent, because some women have been seduced.* This is no more than the overflowings of his modern revolutionary morality; it is not founded in fact, but springs spontaneously from a fancy naturally distempered, and heated burning hot with theoretick philosophy. This, we think is nothing more, taking the subject and application of the sentiment together, than a complete *prostitution* of talents. But let us hear Mr. White himself:

THE PROSTITUTE.

DACTYLICKS.

WOMAN of weeping eye, ah! for thy wretched lot,
Putting on smiles to lure the lewd passenger,
Smiling, while anguish gnaws at thy heavy heart;

Sad is thy chance, thou daughter of misery,
Vice and disease are wearing thee fast away,
While the unfeeling ones sport with thy sufferings.

Destin'd to pamper the vicious one's appetite;
Spurn'd by the beings who lur'd thee from innocence,
Sinking unnotic'd in sorrow and indigence.

Thou hast no friends, for they with thy virtue fled;
Thou art an outcast from house and from happiness;
Wand'ring alone on the wide world's unfeeling stage.

Daughter of misery, sad his thy prospect here ;
Thou hast no friend to sooth down the bed of death ;
None after thee enquires with solicitude ;

Famine and fell disease shortly will wear thee down,
Yet thou hast still to brave often the winter's wind,
Loathsome to those thou wouldst court with thine hollow eyes.

Soon thou wilt sink into death's silent slumbering,
And not a tear shall fall on thy earthly grave,
Nor shall a single stone tell where thy bones are laid.

Once wert thou happy—thou wert once innocenct,
But the seducer beguil'd thee in artlessness,
Then he abandon'd thee unto thine infamy.

Now he perhaps is reclin'd on a bed of down,
But if a wretch like him sleeps in security,
God of the red right arm ! Where is thy thunderbolt ?

IMITATION.

THE CHIMNEY SWEEP.

DACTYLICKS.

MAN of the bawling voice ! ah for thy sooty coat ;
Crawling up chimney, to scrape the passage clean ;
Patches on thy trowsers, for fear the knees should wear out.

Dang'rous is thy chance, thou man of elevation,
For should thy foot slip when at the chimney's top,
Then thou wouldst tumble down, nothing to stop thy fall.

Destin'd to live enclosed in a dirty garb ;
Spurn'd by the beings whose dwellings thou hast saved
From fire and devastation ; all for a few cents.

Friends thou hast none, because of thy dusty dress ;
Thy soot-bag thou emptiest into the miry street,
With which 'tis congenial ; and then thou tak'st a dram.

Son of the brush and bag, hard is thy living got ;
Neglect of the worldly, drives thee to drinking,
Until your money will no longer hold out.

Then wilt thou reel away, into the first grog-shop,
Where they will credit thee, and guzzle down gin-sling
In copious libations, until thou art dead-drunk.

These vicious courses, shortly will wear thee out;
Yet the next morning thou travel'st the chimney up,
Bawling out as usual, "chimney sweep, swee p ho!"

Once thou wert sober, thou wert once clean and neat;
The proud man of riches, scornful neglected thee,
And drove thee for thy bread, to fill up a soot-bag.

Now he, perhaps, is laying on his bed of rest,
Who but the day before, clean had his chimney swept:
God of the flaming fire! where is thy tinder box?

THE STAGE.

Hard is his lot, who here by fortune plac'd,
Must chase the new blown bubbles of the day.

REMARKS ON "LOVE AND PHYSICK,"

Which according to the advertisement of the Boston Theatre, is
"A NEW FARCE, NEVER PERFORMED."

WHEN Sir John Falstaff is reproached by Prince Harry, for the tatterdemalion appearance of his company, and calls them a parcel of scare-crows, he replies to him, very justly, "food for powder, food for powder, Hal; they'll fill a pit as well as better men." Something parallel to this observation, may be fairly applied to the dramatick compositions of this country; "food for criticks, food for criticks; they'll employ their wits as well as better plays." And we think the farce of Love and Physick, has afforded to the criticks, much delectable food, as perhaps it would be asking too much to be treated with, oftener than once in a season. If we considered the composition before us as a mere standing dish, and not a very great variety, we should perhaps refrain from *falling on it* very greedily; but as it is certainly very uncommon in its relish, we cannot debar ourselves the pleasure of offering up to our readers a taste of this highly flavoured production.

The story has but little incident, and can be shortly told: the conduct, we think, will afford abundant satisfaction in the relation; and as to the diction, we shall offer some specimens as far as our recollection will favour us, which will exhibit the refined taste in which it was dictated, and afford a specimen of the kind of wit which does not fail to set the barren spectators of a Boston Theatre in a roar of laughter, and draw down thundering plaudits on the devoted heads of the performers.

The scene, we believe, is laid in London, and the plot is not by any means complex; for there is no *counter action* of its regular pro-

gression from one end to the other of the piece; it goes straight on, and meets with no perplexity in the developement, but the delay of time. This is a novel idea in dramatick composition; generally speaking, an author confounds his heroes in disappointments, and embarrasses the lover and his mistress with difficulties, which it is the object of his piece to overcome. Here, however, every thing succeeds to a charm; nothing goes wrong; from the physick which a principal part of the characters are made to dabble in, to the contrivance of the lover to marry his mistress. But to the story. *Sparkle*, a very young rake, is in love with *Laura*, the ward of Mr. Tobias Weezle, and she, on the other hand, is equally enamoured of him. Laura, it seems, is so closely watched by her guardian, Weezle, and his maiden sister, Miss Weezle, for fear of this spark, Sparkle, that she cannot find an opportunity to see him or speak to him, notwithstanding the old folks are confined to their chamber with sickness, and she has a pert chambermaid, ready to wait all her commands. In this state of things, Sparkle is disguised as a great physician, palms himself off as such, upon Doctor Squills, an illiterate quack, with whom he agrees to visit, bleed and blister for him, on condition of receiving a small part of the fees of office, and of practicing on the "squillonian system," of killing all who are very sick, and making sick those who are well; and this he agrees to, in hopes that he may be sent to visit the patients of Doctor Squills, Mr. and Miss Weezle, who are full of complaints, and by that means to have an opportunity of speaking with his dear Laura. Matters have thus far proceeded before the piece begins; and we first discover Sparkle, in his assumed character of physician, thumping in a mortar. Events turn out very favourable to him, for no sooner does he begin his new occupation, than he is recommended by Squills to visit the house of his enamoretta, as a wonderful physician. Besides this, Sparkle has a friend, named *Bloom*, who is very poor, and wishes to get rich by marriage; so on the first visit which our new physician makes to the old people, he undertakes to cure Mr. Weezle himself, but recommends Bloom as an eminent ladies' Doctor, to take care of Miss Tabby. She consents to receive him, and Doctor Sparkle departs. No sooner is he gone, however, than old Weezle, who has been highly delighted with his learning, proposes him as a match for his ward, Laura. Tabitha readily falls into the scheme, and matters are settled that he should be introduced to Laura, on his next visit. In the mean time Laura had dispatched her chambermaid, *Hit*, to find out what had become of Sparkle, of whose contrivances she was utterly ignorant.

Bloom is now visited by Sparkle, who acquaints him with his scheme, and informs him he must play well his artillery of flattery; and Tabby with all her fortune will be his forever. Accordingly, Bloom visits Miss Tabby in the character of a young physician, and she very

soon consents to run away with him, to be married; and agrees to meet him in the garden at 8 o'clock: we are not informed of the necessity of their elopement; it however is agreed on by the parties, and that perhaps is enough.

The prescriptions of Sparkle had confined Weezle to his bed, and Laura is seen watching by his side. After her guardian mentions to her his intention of marrying her to the new Doctor, (Sparkle) his arrival is announced. This greatly distresses Miss Laura, especially as Hit, the chambermaid is just informing her that she can no where find out what has become of her lover. Thus singularly situated she thinks it best to go to sleep upon the occasion, and accordingly seats herself upon the sofa, just as the Doctor is coming in, and soon is engaged in a comfortable nap. Sparkle no sooner enters, than old Weezle proposes to him as physician, after a little circumlocution, to marry his ward; the Doctor consents, with some hesitation, and old Weezle accordingly leaves the room, that the Doctor and his mistress, (who is all this time asleep) may bring matters to bear.

He soon discovers himself to her; she is highly delighted; and they, at first, determine to proceed to church, as soon as wings can add speed to their feet. But the lady very prudently bethinks herself that her sudden acquiescence will cause suspiscion, agrees to defer the ceremony. "But not so soon, *say* at seven;" yet in the height of her joy, she observes "we'll meet at, *say* seven," "yes, say seven;" and then hey for the church, the ceremony, love and Sparkle. Things being thus agreed upon between Sparkle and his Laura, we will see what the other characters are about. It seems the servant of Old Doctor Squills, wants to kiss Miss Hit, the servant to Laura, but she very frankly tells him she is tired of kissing, she has had kissing enough, and now she wants—yes, she wants to be married. Well, after some little explanations, *they* determine to meet in the garden, at 8 o'clock, to go to church.

The next scene is the garden; and first enters Bloom, in expectation of meeting Miss Tabby, and he meets Miss Hit, whom he unhappily and singularly mistakes for his mistress, and though he talks with her for a quarter of an hour, and perseveres in his error, they are sadly perplexed to find the garden gate, and they go off in search of it. Presently, Tabby herself enters, and finds Hit's lover instead of her own; neither his recollection nor hers appears very sharp, for they converse a long time together, without discovering their mistake, and they proceed to seek their way out of the garden. They depart, and then enter Hit and Bloom, who have not yet discovered each other, though they have been a long time wandering about the garden, probably to give the other couple an opportunity to meet and talk a little, without rectifying their blunder. However, the watchman sounds his racket just at this juncture, who it seems, must have discovered them

in the garden, before they could possibly find the gate to get out, and this too, "when it was so dark, Hal, that you could not see your hand." He probably discovered them through the wall; at any rate, his racket charmed them so much that all of them fell into his custody, like a bird into the fangs of a rattle snake.

In the next scene, we find a table set, and Old Weezle and Doctor Squills waiting anxiously for the return of Sparkle and Laura, from church; when information is given that the watchman had discovered some robbers in Mr. Weezle's garden, and had brought them into the house. This alarms him and Doctor Squills excessively; however, they very heroically determine to see the culprits, after hearing they are tied together, and that the "watchman will stand by them:" accordingly, one of them seizes a knife, and the other a fork, and with a couple of dish-covers, for shields, they stand upon the defensive. These culprits turn out to be none other than Bloom, Tabby, Hit, and her lover, whom the watchman had supposed to be thieves.—After this difficulty is settled, Sparkle enters in his real character, with Laura, they having now become man and wife. This, of course, creates considerable uneasiness; but all things are reconciled, without much difficulty, and Bloom and Tabby are regularly married to each other. Hit and her lover are united, and all parties are made as happy as marriage, physick, and money can make them.

This is perhaps an imperfect account of the story; but the diction is so uncommonly ambitious, and dictated by so refined a taste, that we cannot refrain from offering some of the most striking images which we can recollect. Speaking of his feelings, old Weezle talks about a "rat running up and down his throat: his *bowels*, he said, felt as if a house-swallow had built her nest there, and the young ones were sticking to his ribs; but I'll drown them at least," &c. and then he takes physick. Some of the characters speak of "carrying guts to a bear," of medicine "*playing the devil, and turning up jack in his belly;*" of an old lady's lips resembling "*a red cabbage leaf in a frosty morning.*" A lady is desired to "wipe her snout, and mop out her eyes;" and a physician, among other operations of his craft, talks of going to "give a clyster to a child one night old." Laura descried her lover at an opera house, says that "if he applauded, in a trice the whole audience will take the contagion, you will see rows of teeth round *the rows of boxes, from those as white as a vein of alabaster, to those as black as a range of grave stones in a church yard!*" "Pot-hooks and trammels, emeticks, blisters, catharticks," and all kinds of medicinal operations, are scattered over this play in wonderful profusion.

The pit and gallery seemed highly delighted with the treat, and laughed till their very sides did ache; and the piece was announced for a second representation, amidst hisses and applauses, equally violen and determined.

THE SPANISH PATRIOTS.

IF the cause which united all America against Great-Britain in 1776, and the feelings which produced that union, ever had a parallel in history, it must be discovered in the late attempt of the Spaniards, to free their country from the oppression of a tyrant, who has derided their religion, wasted their treasure, and made their monarch a prisoner. Yet the democratick party affect to view all the honour which is paid to this glorious cause, as inconsistent with the character of the American people; and they sneer at every expression of the publick, in favour of it. Not only the democratick papers in this place, but those in various parts of the country, have discountenanced, as far as lay in their power, every hope that they should succeed. Why is all this? why are they not as favourable to Spain in 1809, as they pretended to have been to America in 1776? Because the French nation is opposed to them, and apparently for no other reason. And yet these people not only in their writings, but in publick town meetings, affect to say, that there is no French influence in the country; and that if America is to go to war, which they affirm is highly probable, they will go to war with France.

Their champions in publick town meeting, on the question of petitioning the State Legislature, expressly declared their belief, not only that the preparations for war, now making, were not directed against Great-Britain, but that France was the object of hostility; and yet looking into their papers, we do not perceive a syllable which can be construed into enmity against Bonaparte, or the French government. We sincerely hope the predictions of one of the speakers may be fulfilled, "That the Orders in Council are now taken off, in consequence," he firmly believes, "of the measures of the present administration."

The Dinner given on Tuesday, in honour of the Spanish nation, so far from exciting sympathy or praise in the breasts of the democrats, has been the cause of the most vindictive ebullitions of their spleen. This dinner is highly honourable to the town: for the Spaniards were not only the first to honour us in our struggle for independence, but the cause in which they are engaged, is universally acknowledged throughout Europe, to have more justice on one side, and more political turpitude on the side of France, than has existed in any dispute since the French revolution began its career. Yet black as that nation is on the catalogue of perfidious powers, and covered as her rulers have been with the reproaches of mankind; the attempt to dethrone the Spanish monarch, and place a Bonaparte on the throne, strikes a blow in the world, which is felt to the remotest nations; and as every one feels the injury, so every one should express the resentment which such injuries demand.

MR. CANNING's LETTER.

WHAT becomes now of the assertions of those democratick gentlemen, who declared this letter to be a forgery? What becomes now of the *veracity* of the Monitor? With what face can the gentleman still support his party, who openly declared "that if that letter had been suppressed by the administration, it no longer deserved the countenance of the people, and that he would be one to discountenance it?" The president has acknowledged the suppression of this document; and what excuse has he made for his turpitude? Why, forsooth, the communication of the letter *alone*, (Mr. Pinckney's answer to it, he affirms had not arrived,) would have accorded neither with propriety nor the wishes of Mr. Pinckney." Well done modesty, egad! Mr. Jefferson, who sent back to England a treaty, almost without reading it, negociated by this very Mr. Pinckney, is now scrupulous of injuring the feelings of that gentleman! But pray what have the wishes of Mr. Pinckney to do in preventing the communication of important national documents? According to this rule, an unsuccessful negociation may prevent *any* communications from being made to the people. But "it would not accord with propriety," *and the answer of Mr. Pinckney had not been received.* Indeed it would *not* accord with propriety; for it exposed, as completely as words could, the *impropriety* of the conduct of administration. *But Mr. Pinckney's answer had not been received.* This requires some little reflection. In the first place, we affirm that it is highly improbable, and in fact violates common sense and discretion to suppose Mr. Pinckney would send home a publick document, of this important nature, without accompanying it with as full and complete an extenuation of the government and himself, as he could possibly produce. The idea that he *could* dispatch Mr. Canning's letter home, without his own reply, proves that he is a great ignoramus, and, of course, must make a very ridiculous figure on the elevated station where he is placed; and that he ought to be recalled immediately, for the honour of the United States, little as there is of it abroad. We do not, however, believe that the documents did arrive separately; but if they did, we venture to affirm, the answer of Mr. Pinckney *has not been received since the publication of Mr. Canning's letter, in Washington:* and, if so, the duty had devolved on the president, before that time, to have communicated it to congress. It is evident, Mr. Jefferson would have suppressed the whole correspondence, if he could; it was his interest to do so: because *it unmasked the treachery of our foreign negociations*, and we will not for the honour of human nature suppose, that the administration could endure the complete exposure of their nakedness. It is too bloated with crime, and defiled by treachery, to be shewn to the world without abhorrence.

This subject will receive further attention, in our next number.

CONSIDERATIONS ON "THE CONTRAST"

"Between the death of a Deist, and the death of a Christian," contained in the Panoplist of November last.

WE have proposed to notice some of the inferences which the Rev. Doctor Mason has unwarrantably drawn from the circumstances attending the respective deaths of Mr. Hume and Dr. Finley.

There is no object more distressing than a zealous bigot; who strives to wrest all observations from their natural direction, in order to make them accord with his views, or array them in feeble opposition, that he may more easily overturn them. The reverend author we have just mentioned, affirms in the first place, that the letter of Dr. Adam Smith, concerning the death of Mr. Hume, is a proof of an infidel attempt to set off the intrepidity or composure of a sceptical brother, and shew him to the greatest advantage at the time of dissolution. We undertake to say, on the contrary, that the letter in question is exceedingly *unguarded*; what need would there have been (if Doctor Smith wished Mr. Hume's reputation extended) to introduce Charon and his boat, and Lucian's dialogues of the dead? The tendency of these passages, so far from setting Mr. Hume off to advantage, *in the eyes of the world*, has a directly contrary effect. If so, the whole ground work of Dr. Mason's intolerant comparison is overturned. Let any one read the letter of Dr. Smith, and then let him declare whether there is, apparently, any attempt to distort *or conceal circumstances*, in order to make a more favourable impression of Mr. Hume's moral character. What need, if that were the intention, of mentioning the game of whist; why not conceal it? The death of Mr. Finley, to which Dr. Mason turns with rapture, was the death of a superstitious enthusiast, and the death of Mr. Hume, that of a man who did not believe in the doctrine of the christian religion to be sure, but which can have no bearing upon the validity of those doctrines. Religion must rest upon its own basis: the breath of infidelity can no more overturn the fabrick, than the weak props of superstition can support it.

It was not expected of Mr. Hume, that he should express a *belief* of the christian religion; he died consistently with his previous character. And we maintain that Dr. Mason *has no right to infer any thing in favour of christianity, because Mr. Hume said nothing about a God, a providence, or an hereafter.* If the composure of that great writer, at his death, intrinsically considered, has any bearing on the christian system, it is not in favour of it. But Dr. Mason, by begging the question in the first instance, rushes on afterwards in a stream of superstitious eloquence, against those passages in Dr. Smith's letter, which merely described the *consistency* of Mr. Hume's character. How does he *prove* the benefits resulting to christianity, from the death of Mr. Hume? why truly, by shewing *him perfectly serene and composed in*

his disbelief. This is a novel mode of conviction to be sure; but he proceeds to argue *from his dying without mentioning the subject*, that religion was therefore triumphant. The death of Mr. Hume was correspondent to his character; but whether the death of a christian is not more honourable than that of an infidel, is a distinct subject of enquiry, and certainly very easy of solution.

Dr. Mason takes for granted as much of the account given of the death of Mr. Hume, as suits his purpose, and rejects, or distorts the rest, to gratify his pleasure or convenience. When Dr. Black describes Mr. Hume as saying, "I am dying as easily and cheerfully as my best friends could desire;" that "when he became very weak, it cost him an effort to speak, and that he died in such a happy composure of mind that nothing could exceed it," Dr. Mason undertakes to disbelieve it. He declares all this "composure," "cheerfulness," complacency," "resignation," "happiness," to be affectation. "It is a mockery," says he, "of every human feeling; and every throbbing of the heart convicts it of a *lie.*" Why is Dr. Mason thus violent in his rage? If the circumstances make in favour of Christianity, this effervescence of zeal is superfluous; but if the contrary, why then he should shew the superiority of Christian gentleness to infidel composure, and not denominate a gentleman a *liar*, in unqualified terms. The truth is, he thinks the argument makes against him, and he rages. He might, with equal propriety, have declared, the disbelief of certain tenets, expressed in the writings of Mr. Hume, to be a *mockery and a lie*; but would that assertion be a reply to the arguments this writer has made use of? If all those circumstances, in the life and death of an infidel, which are variant from the Christian doctrines, are proofs of the truth of those doctrines, then a man may prove, by a similar process, any contradiction in nature.

Dr. Mason says this resignation and complacency could not be, *because it could not be;* he opposes his *inference* to the *assertion* of Dr. Black, and there he leaves the argument.

Dr. Mason expatiates upon the nonsense of Mr. Finley, with most extravagant and enthusiastick fervour; but we hope infidelity can be more easily refuted than by the ebullitions of such zeal, and christianity be better supported, than by deviating from truth and candour, and in truth, by departing from the very rules of christianity.

The christian religion derives support from its own intrinsick excellence; the light of revelation, and the tests of experience. The beams which are shed upon it, to shew the beauty of its structure, proceed directly from the source of light, and irradiate its inmost recess. Do not let us attempt to build up these adventitious supports, for the consequences, without overthrowing infidelity, may be detrimental to christianity itself.

THE

ORDEAL.

Nº. 5.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICKS.

Rara temporum felicitas, ubi sentire quæ velis, et quæ sentias dicere, licet.
——— TACIT.

LETTER.—Nº. 2.

To ——— ———,

SIR,

THE gulf of distress into which this country has been involved, first by the temporising uncertainty, and afterwards by the violent pressure of your measures, threatens to involve you too, in the general destruction. The chastity of your administration had always been suspected, from the prudery of its exterieur, and its captiousness at the most distant insinuation; but fortunately for the nation, the effects of illicit intercourse are growing every day more evident. You are about to retire, sir, but your shame will remain, and the execrations of the country will pursue you. You are every way to be pitied or despised, since you are every way unfortunate and contemptible. But, though your ridiculous misfortunes might disarm even personal enmity of its weapon; your treachery to the nation, will place it in the hands of publick justice, to inflict the vengeance, due to so enormous a crime. Justice has no sympathy; your faults have of late so much accumulated in her balance, that her sword is now raised, waiting for the signal of the people. Though cowardice is a protection from the resentments of courage, it is no defence against the determinations of the publick will. In your retirement from office, you cannot carry with you the infamy of your transactions; you may perish, but they will remain uninjured; for they are preserved in the tears of your afflicted country.

Since the acknowledgment of your suppression of the important document from Mr. Canning; the abuse of your polluted presses has suddenly been stopped. The prevarication of

the *Monitor*, and the virulence of Tom Paine, are equally at an end. The man, who was daring enough to assail the divinity of God and the sanctity of the scriptures, wants impudence enough to defend your turpitude. The charge of the Federalists was, that the letter of the British minister had been concealed from the people; the charge was repelled by infamous abuse; and forgery, forgery was the watch word of your party. Even the hired sycophants of your power, could not believe you vile enough for so perfidious a deed. How does it happen then, that the official acknowledgment of the transaction, exceeds the limits of hireling belief. Do your worshippers find out that their god is an evil spirit; or do you think you have already sufficiently succeeded in distressing the country, and are willing to suspend your machinations, and give your successor an equal chance with yourself, to violate the rights of the publick? Whatever are the causes of this silence, when the clearest vindication should have been expected, the effects are as deplorable as your utmost malignity can desire. We are now *officially informed*, that the treachery we suspected in our foreign negociations did really exist in the cabinet: we find ourselves reduced to such a state of desperation, through your instrumentality, that all relief is hopeless, but the last resort of despair. But if, like the slave in Morocco, we must give up our life at the signal of a tyrant, we hope, like him to have such presence of mind in our distraction, as first to inflict our vengeance on the despot, and draw this miserable consolation in our calamity, that he also is involved in the same destruction with ourselves.

After all this treachery, we are now to be insulted with excuses about Mr. Pinckney, and nonsensical arguments suggesting the non-reception of the reply to the suppressed letter. This is mockery indeed. What! assign as a reason for governmental treachery, the opposing *wishes* of an individual, whose credit you had before done your utmost to destroy, by another stretch of power in direct repugnance to those wishes. For shame, for shame; the impotence of the reasoning is too florid for health, it evinces only the hectick of disease. But you say, his answer to Mr. Canning was not received with that minister's communication. Were you perfectly aware of the improbabilities included in this assertion? The government of this country is charged with treachery in a foreign court, and the minister

representing that government, sends home this charge, without shewing either how it was repelled, or whether it was repelled. No, he dispatched this important letter home, without a single comment: he proved himself utterly unworthy of even a *consulship* under the little republick of St. Marino; and yet we are insultingly told that in consequence of his wishes, a dispatch containing the most necessary information to our very existence has been suppressed. It cannot be believed for a moment; Mr. Pinckney's answer and Mr. Canning's letter, if they did not arrive at the same instant, had both arrived long before the time, when the cries of the people demanded of the President an explicit avowal or disavowal of the latter. It has now been officially acknowledged to be genuine; and the universal shout of indignation which has succeeded the developement has shaken, the foundation of the capital.

There are three acts to which you have given your sanction, neither of which, had it appeared alone, could in my opinion, have been exceeded in perfidy; but which coming together, and gradually rising upon each other in the scale of infamy, render it doubtful whether you have not yet concealed something more deadly than either; something which may constitute the point of depravity, at which the political mercury freezes, and render all further observation useless, for want of some more potent fluid to determine the yet to be degraded state of your vindictive turpitude. The last Embargo act including intrinsically, and under its mildest aspect, a tyranny of the most dangerous precedent, had hardly been promulgated, when your acknowledgment of the suppression of a publick document of the utmost importance was made known; and at length to shew the greater lengths to which treachery has been extended, the French minister steps forward before all Europe, and acknowledges you to be a faithful ally to that government. The eyes of all the world are now turned in anxious expectation, to the conduct of the United States, and to you sir, in particular, as the President of the union. Recollect then, that though you have betrayed the best interests and the dearest rights of the nation; yet, that repentance is still in your power. Though the ruined merchant, and citizen of the New-England states must forever detest you; yet you may be able to elude the virulence of their exasperated revenge, by a sudden change of measures. The distressed cir-

cumstances in which you as well as they are placed, will admit neither of delay nor indecision. Make amends for the insults and injuries you have heaped upon us, not by formal apologies nor indirect satisfaction; but by a direct conformity to the interests of the nation. Let your Embargo be repealed, your tone of hostility to one, and submission to another belligerent be changed; avow your *just* rights, but insist not upon unattainable concessions. If, after all this, you should fail in your negociations, be prepared with your power to maintain your independence. Act thus, and you oppose a rock to the tide of vengeance, which now threatens destruction to the federal compact: persist in your present measures, and the stream will hurry you into a fate as exemplary and dreadful, as your crimes are numerous and deadly. Let me warn you to change, before it be too late, or if you must preserve the general tenor of your part for the catastrophe of the piece; remember that the justice of the poet must doom you to a punishment, commensurate with the extent of your atrocity. MARCUS BRUTUS.

EXTRACT

From the REPLY *of both branches of the Legislature of Massachusetts to the Lieut. Governour's Speech.*

To HIS HONOUR, *the Lieutenant-Governour of the* COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS.

MAY IT PLEASE YOUR HONOUR,

"THE appeal to heaven, in the opening of your honour's first address to the Senate and House of Representatives of Massachusetts, so much resembles the arguments of an impostor, as to render us suspicious, that you too might betray us into a snare, by the plausibility of your political cunning, and an affected attachment to every description of party. True religion is evinced by the practice of the christian virtues; but we always suspect the hypocrite, when he begins his career by unlimited professions of zeal, and appeals to God for the integrity of his *intentions*, instead of proving that integrity by his conduct. But, may it please your honour, you soon afterwards convince us that the appeal in question was only a formal opening to your address, without any meaning whatsoever; for in a following passage of your speech,

you contemplate a quarrel between the several branches of the state government, certainly inconsistent with devotion to the Deity and the messenger of peace and good will. You observe in a very prophetick manner; 'if instructed by the constitution and law, and sincerely aiming to adhere to their provisions, and to advance the general interest and harmony among the citizens, there should unhappily be a difference of opinion between the different departments of government, as to means or their application, it can be no just cause of uneasiness or distrust among us.'

Now your honour must suffer us to be at issue with you upon this point, since we happen to be acquainted with no *juster* 'cause of uneasiness and distrust' amongst a people, than a 'difference of opinion' entertained by the different departments of a government; particularly of so determined a nature as to be avowed and contemplated by the Executive, before the question on which it is to occur is brought before the legislative branch; and even before it could be known that *any* question to come before them could reasonably produce a disagreement. Your honour, however, has the merit of introducing a more compendious system of government; you imply *your* hostile intentions, not only previous to the passage of an act or resolve, but previous to any knowledge of an *intention* in the legislature to pass any such act or resolve. While therefore, you contemplate a difference of opinion in the councils of the state government, and imply that that difference will come from yourself, of what use is it to inform us of the advantages which would result 'could legislators be agreed;' it rests with you to produce the agreement, and you avow determined opposition.

You however are pleased to inform us soon after, of the ground of this hostility; that 'the New-England states have been represented to their injury, and to the injury of the United States; as distracted with divisions, prepared for opposition to the authority of the law, and fast ripening for a secession from the union.' If this is the basis on which your subsequent remarks are founded, will it not follow, if we disagree to the facts, that your reasonings are many of them superfluous, and some of them dangerous to the community? Do you presume, sir, that the legislature of Massachusetts are ripening for a secession from the union? Well may you say that our *enemies* alone could have made the suggestion; for they have come from persons, associated with your honour in political opinions.

The Legislature of Massachusetts view with equal abhorrence the persons who have insinuated any such sentiments, as belonging to their body, and those who can affect to believe them; and they presume from the inconsistency of many other parts of the first speech of your honour, that you must be infatuated with errour when you undertake to prove the evils of disunion to the nation, that being the only apology for your entertaining so preposterous an idea. We now affirm that these notions

are utterly extravagant, and however we may believe that the present measures of our national government are destructive to the union, by eating into the very bonds which have hitherto united these states, yet it will always be our wish as it will always be our duty, to cling to the national compact as long as it will hold together. But sir, we cannot subscribe to your opinion, that there are stages in respect to governments when "*an end must be put to debate,*" since we hold it to be an inherent principle in republicanism, that publick measures are *always* open to the animadversions of the people; and that if it were possible to exclude them from this privilege, the enforcement of the principle would of itself be an introduction of despotism. That experiment has been fully tried, not only in this country, but in Europe. If the government are obliged to you for this intimation in regard to their political disease; they will not be obliged to us for remembering the remedy.

You say, "it cannot be necessary, *nor would it be beneficial,* to review in detail the *continued aggravated* injuries and insults which have been heaped upon us by the warring powers of Europe." This a passage beyond our comprehension in every respect: it is not easily comprehensible, because we are unacquainted with the *continued aggravated* injuries and insults which you allude to as being perfectly familiar to us; and still less can we comprehend why, if such continued injuries and insults have occurred since our countervailing measures, we should be obliged to resort to 'able and repeated *discussions,*' which you only refer to in a vague and indeterminate manner, and to publick documents, which, to say the least are not the proper organs of communication to this legislature.

You observe that a government like the present is 'so safe, so reasonable, so beyond every thing else essential to the liberty and happiness of our citizens,' and so a great many other things to their advantage, that its hazard or interruption, cannot be contemplated but with distress. You express our grievances in the language of the most zealous methodist; we are pressed, you affirm, by acts of insolence, rapine and plunder, to the very wall; we have been smote on one cheek by foreign nations, and our Embargo has fairly turned them the other; we have acted up fully to the christian system of forbearance, and it is therefore to be hoped, that we shall not complain, if after all, we try in the modestly warlike language of our virtuous President, "which can do the other the most harm." We have sunk, you seem to intimate, to the lowest point of national degradation; a point below which we cannot sink: and here we do not disagree with you, especially as we unite in believing the truth, of your particular references, as well as the general assertion. We have indeed, not only approached, but arrived at the period when we have "*surrendered our honour, property, and the power of self-government.*" We have reached a point of de-

basement, we fear, beyond the power of any *recuperative* energy to enable us to repass.

The " pacifick wisdom" of which you speak may be inherent in our government; but we are not able to discover any thing in what you are pleased to term so, but *hostility without power*, and the puny efforts of *legal restraint* against *physical ability*. Do you call our insisting on the universal immunity of the American flag in merchants' ships, '*pacifick wisdom?*' was the non importation law '*pacifick wisdom?*' or is the far famed Embargo policy, so powerfully *coercing* foreign nations, '*pacifick wisdom?*' It is '*wisdom*' indeed, corresponding to the character of Mr. Jefferson's philosophick policy; he affirms it to be *coercive*, and must therefore be much obliged to your honour for denominating it *pacifick*.

But under all the unprecedented circumstances of difficulty which the national government was placed, the Embargo was a necessary measure; and therefore because it has passed into a law we have no right to complain. If it be unconstitutional 'it is a question no longer open to controversy or opposition;' if it be proved *ineffectual* it is notwithstanding a measure necessary to *coerce* foreign nations, and therefore 'an end must be put to debate;' if 'the privations and sufferings of the people, in consequence of it, '*are notorious to our rulers*,' if our *property* is seized at the point of the bayonet, if our *houses* are searched, and our *persons* imprisoned, at the beck of a mere dreg of society in order to execute this law, we are told that our protests, our petitions, and our remonstrances will be of no avail; 'what!' you observe, would you wish to see *our peace, liberty*, and social *happiness* at the feet of a *party?* If this law is thus ineffectual, tyrannical, unconstitutional and oppressive, it is in vain for your honour to refer to our liberty, social happiness or peace; they are long ago extinguished.

The strain of triumph, in which your Honour enquire for the causes of the 'regretted indiscretions, suddenness and individual rashness, that have denounced our national government, and wounded our own; and the jealousy, distrust, altercation and bitter aspersion of some of our best citizens,' would naturally lead us to imagine that you had proved the propriety of relinquishing all complaint of existing evils, in the exultations of general happiness. But, sir, what have you proved? You admit that 'the forbearance and pacifick policy of the administration have *been no security*' to us against belligerent aggression, and yet you vindicate the continuance of measures so ineffectual. The *ship owners* and the New-England states may have been the greatest sufferers, you observe; and the Embargo, you admit, is *unequal* in its operation at home, and ineffectual abroad; and do you any longer wonder at the writhing of wounded patriotism, and the cries of calamitous distress? But we understand you, sir, the government *must* be supported in any system of measures however ruinous,

because it happens to be *law*. And even when *law* becomes *oppressive*, when liberty becomes *restraint*, when property becomes *uncertain*, and when *innocence is no protection*, the people of this country have no right to complain: our rulers in Washington have a fatherly care over us, and though chains are riveting upon our necks, and the poison of injustice is rankling in our veins, our pulsation must remain equable, and we must not so much as heave one sigh, nor groan, nor expostulation. This sir, we deem no less than an attempt to deride our distress at the expense of our understandings. If the people are to be cajoled out of their rights, let it be done under some appearance of argument. Cover the dagger which threatens us with the mantle of publick good; but do not betray the malicious grin of triumphant despotism, when you prostrate our liberty in the dust. If the administration have involved themselves in a toil, their convulsions to escape may destroy the individuals which surround them: let them candidly acknowledge the error of their policy, let them admit that theory has deluded them like children; but do not let them add insult to injury, and declare to the people, through your honour, that their calamity is no cause of complaint. But, sir, if such is your determination, this legislature will not answer for the consequences; the good sense of the people already begins to be roused, by an unprecedented measure of danger to the state; it cannot much longer be deceived; and when they are once convinced of perfidy in the cabinet at Washington, who will dare to assign other limits to their resistance, than the extent of their power?"

MORE OF THE "CONTRAST."

MESSRS. EDITORS,

AFTER reading your late Remarks on Dr. Mason's 'Contrast between the death of a Deist and the death of a Christian,' my curiosity was strongly excited to read the whole of that article. I accordingly purchased the Panoplist for November, and sat down to read it. My eyes could hardly keep pace with my astonishment. What could induce Dr. Mason to publish a 'Contrast' between the deaths of Hume and Finley, when, notwithstanding his own remarks and inferences, every line of the Contrast is an argument against the cause which he has undertaken to support? Suppose Dr. Finley did wish to 'feel just as he did when he first closed with Christ?' or that he had assurance of the 'politeness of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob?' or that he wished for a substitute to take care of the cause of religion in this world, when he was about to leave it? What is this to the by-standers or any body

else? Does it prove that the Christian religion is truth, and Deism a lie? I cannot see that it proves any such thing. But the whole story proves, incontestibly, that David Hume died with a composure and serenity, becoming a man who had nothing to fear beyond the grave; and that Samuel Finley died either *insane*, or felt much regret for the past, and more anxiety for the future.

From an attentive perusal of the 'Contrast,' I am convinced that it is calculated to do more hurt than good, by exhibiting the 'Deist' dying like a *man*, and the 'Christian' like a *lunatick* or a *fool*. I ask again, What could induce Dr. Mason to injure the cause, he pretends so warmly to have espoused? I must believe he is not the author of the 'Contrast'—he has probably been imposed upon by some diabolical evil-minded infidel, some wolf in sheep's clothing, who wrote the 'Contrast' and procured its insertion in the Christian Magazine, before the Doctor had thoroughly examined it. Dr. Mason will not be under very great obligations to the Panoplist editors, for asserting, in such unqualified terms, that it is from his pen. I think they ought, in justice to the Doctor, and the cause of religion, to contradict the assertion immediately, that the vindication may tread upon the heels of the calumny.

Yours, &c. B.

POETRY.

IT has been our earnest desire, in the poetical branch of this publication, to inculcate something which may have a tendency to benefit the community. A pretty thought, prettily expressed, will not of itself have attraction sufficient for our views; the thought must have an application to something tangible or useful, and the expression will then be brought into consideration. The periodical works in this country have been extremely general in the application of their poetry; and one article may be supposed to enforce a moral, which a subsequent one as certainly may refute. It has been immaterial to the compilers, so long as the lines contained a regular chime, or the diction was happy or chaste, whether the whole of their compilation had any tendency at all. Now we cannot discover why poetry may not be made conducive to beneficial purposes, as well as prose; why the soaring imagination may not be guided in its excursions, as well as the regular step of vulgar reason. If we cannot always succeed in procuring such productions as may have the *most powerful influence* on society, we trust we never shall introduce any thing which has not *some*. The Ode

which follows, was written by the unfortunate Chatterton; it is not complete. Though we cannot but censure the infidelity of his tenets, we at the same time must fully concur with him, in viewing the religious hypocrite with execration, when he 'preaches heaven with a downward eye, which turns his soul to dross;' and we confess ourselves as ready and willing as he was, to raise our tongue against him, 'until our eyelids can no longer wag;' 'Oh! 'tis glorious mischief, when vice turns holy and puts religion on.' Is it asked of what use it is in this country, to expose a vice which does not exist; at least, to the extent in which the satire understands it? We would only refer our enquirers to the disgraceful *camp-meetings*, the midnight love-feasts and lectures, which have so general a prevalence throughout New-England. Let them visit such scenes, and they will no longer doubt the existence of the most consummate hypocrisy, and daring vice; more, much more than sufficient to warrant severer satire than the succeeding Ode conveys.

ODE.

RECITATIVE.

IN his wooden Palace jumping,
Tearing, sweating, bawling, thumping,
Repent, repent, repent,
The mighty Whitfield cries,
Oblique lightning in his eyes;
Or die and be damn'd! all around,
The long-ear'd rabble grunt in dismal sound,
Repent, repent, repent,
Each concave mouth replies.
The comet of Gospel, the lanthorn of Light,
Is rising and shining
Like candles at night;
He shakes his ears,
He jumps, he starts;
Hark! he's whining,
The short-hand saints prepare to write,
And high they mount their ears.

AIR.

Now the devil take ye all;
Saints or no saints, all in a lump;
Here must I labour and bawl,
And thump, and thump, and thump,
And never a souse to be got,
Unless—I swear by jingo,

A greater profit's made,
I'll forswear my trade,
My gown and market linguo,
And leave ye all to pot.

RECITATIVE.

Now he raves like brindled cat;
Now 'tis thunder,
Rolling,
Growling,
Rumbling,
Grumbling;
Noise and nonsense, jest and blunder:
Now he chats of this and that;
No more the soul-jobber,
No more the sly robber;
He's now an old woman, who talks to her cat:
Again he starts, he beats his breast,
He rolls his eye, erects his chest;
Hark! hark! the sound begins,
'Tis a bargain, and sale for remission of sins.

AIR.

Say, beloved congregation,
In the hour of tribulation,
Did the power of man affray me?
I have labour'd—pay me—pay me!

I have given absolution,
Don't withhold your contribution,
Men and angels should obey me—
Give but freely, you've remission
For all sins without condition;

RECITATIVE.

Again he's lost, again he chatters
Of lace and bobbin, and such matters.
A thickening vapour swells—
Of Adam's fall he tells;
Dark as twice ten thousand hells,
Is the gibberish which he spatters.
Now a most dismal elegy he sings;
Groans, doleful groans are heard about,
The Issacharian rout
Swell the sharp howl, and loud the sorrow rings.

He sung a modern buck, whose end
  Was blinded, prejudice and zeal;
In life to every vice a friend,
  Unfix'd as fortune on her wheel.
He liv'd a buck, he died a fool;
  So let him to oblivion fall,
  Who thought a wretched body all,
Untaught in nature's, or the passion's school.

  Now again his cornet sounding,
  Sense and harmony confounding;
Reason tortur'd, scripture twisted,
  Into every form of fancy;
Forms which never yet existed,
  And but his oblique opticks can see.
      He swears,
      He tears;
With sputter'd nonsense now he breaks their ears;
At last the sermon and the paper ends.
He whines, and hopes his well beloved friends
  Will contribute their souse,
  To pay the arrears for building a house.
Hark, hark! his cry resounds,
Fire and thunder, blood and wounds!
  Contribute, contribute,
  And pay me my tribute;
  Or the Devil, I swear,
Shall hunt ye, as sportsmen would hunt a poor hare.

THE PORT FOLIO.

THE editor of this publication is well known. His talents, his political and literary principles, are themes of admiration, both to the scholar and politician. Having conducted the Port Folio for many years, with uncommon ability and taste, as a WEEKLY magazine; he now has deemed it expedient to change, and accordingly has advertised his determination of publishing it in future, ONCE A MONTH, under the same title. Without pretending to be acquainted with his motives to this alteration, or with the more extended prospects which a change of situation is calculated to open to his view; whether the novelty of the design is expected to aid its progress, or whether from the light and airy scenes of fancy, he means to descend into the courts of disquisi-

tion, and offer us more solid and substantial matter than is possible for a work of only sixteen pages to afford; we are equally disposed to contemplate his attempt with pleasure. Because we are confident that the abilities of Mr. Dennie, whether applied to the subtleties of controversy, the blandishments of taste, the virulence of politicks, or the acuteness of satire, are eminently calculated to effect the object to which they may be directed: and the patronage of the American publick can never be ill bestowed on one, the aim of whose life has been to extend the literature of his country, and to maintain the proud pre-eminence of genius over the grovelling notions of cent per cent. and the calculations of city wisdom.

He has brushed away the insects of literature, whether fluttering in the sunshine of publick favour or not; he has penetrated the fortresses of democratick spoilers, and exhibited the feature of the inhabitants for general abhorrence; he has maintained the doctrines of sound philosophy and true religion, against the sophistry of infidelity, and the visions of modern theorists: he has espoused the side of real taste, and endeavoured to infuse the spirit of the *belles lettres* into the sluggish veins of his countrymen.

His success in obtaining patronage, we fear, has not been so complete as his arguments against absurdities have been irrefragable. We cannot therefore but offer our best wishes, that the general support of his present plan, may be co-extensive with its utility: and although our fears draw the reins upon our hopes, yet they inspire us with sufficient confidence to predict, that the countenance of more extended influence will smile upon his new undertaking. He has laboured in the vineyard, from the first until the eleventh hour, and has not yet received the wages of his hire. We hope he will go on, however; it may be that brighter skies and more benignant sun-shine will succeed to the cloudy and tempestuous atmosphere which now surrounds us.

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?...*Cic.*

THE hostility of the administration begins now to assume a thundering aspect. Not content with *appeals to reason*, *proclamations*, *non-importation bills*, *Embargoes*, and other restrictive energies, they begin to talk of war. However *exploding the torpedo*, as too destructive a measure, they propose as a most effectual conquest of the British marine, a premium to any set of mutineers who will rise upon their officers, and bring the whole navy into our harbours! They say, besides, that such mutineers shall have the privilege of citizenship immediately conferred

on them without the necessity of residence; since the very act of *treachery* is so congenial to the administration, as at once to entitle the traitors to be placed in the enviable situation of friends to 'the powers that be.' If we are to be involved in a war with that power, we may now beg leave to quiet the minds of those misguided citizens who may happen to fear, that when the ships come before our towns, they will undertake to blow them about their ears, that no such thing is to occur. No, no; the government is as sure that the present plan will succeed, as that the Embargo can *coerce* Great-Britain: and we are pretty certain that one scheme will be just about as effective as the other is proved to have been.

The Assassin Administration.

CONGRESS is no longer a deliberative assembly; the eastern members are first to be brow-beaten into silent acquiescence, and if that plan fails, to be *duelled* into eternity. The attempt to assassinate Mr. Gardenier, last year, failed of success; how nearly the plan of dispatching our representative, Mr. Quincy, has been executed, is yet to be determined. The costive ridicule of the Monitor has had as little effect to daunt his determination to expose corruption, as the accumulated indignities which he has been obliged to sustain on the floor of the house. We look upon him with singular attachment, as the man who has dared to make the attempt to 'pluck bright honour,' by penetrating the vestibule of governmental turpitude; and by making many efforts to rescue from the deep the drowning prosperity of his country. Such a man should always be entitled to the regard of his constituents, from his intrinsick merits; but his persecution should sanctify their esteem.

War with France,

IS strongly recommended in Mr. Gore's Report on Mr. Crowninshield's Resolutions. We have no objection to this course; we think it clear, that with it, all our difficulties with England will be removed; but we are not prepared to say that those difficulties cannot be removed without it. How hopeless is our situation, if, either the tone of hostility to Great-Britain must be softened into acquiescence by the administration; or the tone of submission towards France, be changed to that of war. If by a signal mark of the divine favour, we could be made to escape from this perilous crisis, it would afterwards inspire the most chilling recollections, to retrace in our memories the dangers we had passed. When we should tell our children the history of this day; of the relative power of Great-Britain and France; of the Embargo policy, its suicide upon ourselves, its impotence abroad; that after a year, a long year of trial, it was more rigorously and tyrannically enforced than ever; that *constitutional and unalienable* rights were de-

stroyed, or rendered nugatory: when we should tell them too, how the different departments of government were filled; that James Madison was secretary of state; Albert Gallatin, a foreign renegado, the secretary of the treasury; and Thomas Jefferson the president of the union; how their feelings would be excited at the relation. But when we should proceed to inform them that these very men, notwithstanding all their treachery and ignorance of our interests, were again elected into office; they would not believe it possible that such rulers could have survived the exemplary revenge, which their injured countrymen must have inflicted upon them, to rescue their rights, their persons, and happiness, from impending destruction.

THE Chronicle of Monday last, after saying that GOD will seek retribution for innocent blood, observes, "America will also be punished till this is obtained at the hand of justice. I will bring war on that nation which screens the murderer from punishment, says the LORD." This reminds us of a passage of scripture once cited by a country gentleman, who had frequently observed that his neighbour's wife, from motives of squeamishness, refused to take her regular meals with the family. "Do you recollect," says he, "that awful denunciation in scripture, *Verily, the woman that refuseth to eat with her family, but satisfieth her hunger privately in the pantry, is an abomination in my sight, saith the Lord.*" We wish some one, who reads the scriptures more than we do, would inform us where these passages are to be found.

Something truly Wonderful.

THE pastor of the Baptist church in Barnstable informs the publick through the medium of *The Witness*, a new periodical work published in Boston, that the meetings of his church "are carried on with the greatest solemnity and decorum; so that there has been no outcrying, swooning, &c. in the work." We congratulate these people, and most truly congratulate the publick on this reform, and sincerely pray that it may prevail in other places as well as in Barnstable.

Still more Miraculous.

In a handbill lately published in Connecticut, addressed to the charitable, requesting subscriptions for the purpose of purchasing bibles, to supply the new settlements in the western country, we are informed, "that one of the missionaries in Upper Canada not long since went into a family, and began to read select passages in the bible; (probably in the book of Chronicles or Song of Solomon) he had not read long before he observed the 'crystal tear' trickling down the cheeks of the

whole family, particularly a daughter of about sixteen, and a little boy of four or five, the latter of whom exclaimed in piteous accents, while remorse for his numberless crimes almost choaked his utterance, 'Daddy, is that a Bible?' on being answered in the affirmative, he replied, 'I did not think that a Bible looked so.'"

Miracles outdone.

During a late 'stir in religion,' so called, at Brattleborough in Vermont, a young lady relating her experience at the time when (to use the expression of Dr. Finley,) she 'first closed with Christ,' said that "she was one day walking in the woods, and saw lying at the foot of a tree, an animal which she supposed to be an angel or a devil; she was sure it must have been an angel, a devil, or a *woodchuck*"!!

So much for the effervescence of itinerant zeal, and the ebullitions of fanatick bigotry. Are not publications, which convey such disgraceful accounts of the prostration of human nature in the darkness of infatuated ignorance, libels on the character of New-England; and is it not the duty and interest of every good, wise, and learned Christian to oppose the ramparts of his talents, his virtues, and information, to the incursions of such re-barbarizing delusions?

EPIGRAM,

ON A WOULD BE PHILOSOPHER.

When first his farce of countenance began,
Ere the soft down had mark'd him almost man,
A solemn dulness occupied his eyes,
And the fond mother thought him wondrous wise:—
But little had she read in nature's book,
That *fools* assume a philosophick look.

The above is an extract; but we cannot see why the application does not come home to the sentiments and feelings of the present times.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

THE hurry in which our last paper went to the press, was the cause of numerous typographical errours. In the remarks on *Love and Physick*, page 57, for 'a great variety,' read a great *rarity*; for 'much delectable food,' read *such* delectable food; page 60, for 'Laura descried her lover,' read Laura *describing* her lover; page 62, for 'unccessful negociation,' read unsuccessful *negociator*.

We shall endeavour in future that such glaring inaccuracies shall not occur.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 6.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1809. [Vol. I.

POLITICKS.

Perhaps there never was a change so sudden and extraordinary as that which the misconduct of ministers has within a few years produced in this country. JUNIUS.

LETTER.—N°. 3.

To —— ——,

SIR,

IT is by no means remarkable that the people should feel greatly agitated in the discussion of political questions at this period, when distress has accumulated upon distress, until the load has wasted away both our patience and our strength: but it seems highly astonishing that there should be the least hesitation, in determining where to fix the blame. The guilt is evident; but the punishment is withheld. Perhaps the minds of men are unable to penetrate the secrets of preceding events, from their being overcome with the resistless sensations of present difficulty, and present distress. The numerous circumstances of disgrace, which have attended the administration of this government, for the last eight years, must excite all the aggravation of resentment, when they are considered together; they distract the attention by such singular features of deformity, that the whole groupe is an assemblage too disgusting to be portrayed, and too horrid to contemplate. Like a painter, distracted with a multitude of subjects, I am embarrassed in considering your life; the past events which checquered it, were vile enough it was thought, to have established the infamy of your fame; but they have been followed by circumstances so astonishingly bold as to set at defiance all former principles of judgment or conjecture. The veil of mystery, which formerly covered your proceedings, was difficult for the most perspica-

cious glance to penetrate; but that which now bears the name of covering, like the flimsy gauze over a modern beauty, is calculated to discover rather than conceal. You act as if you intended, by daily increasing in the degree of your depravity, to elude the detection of former crimes. The contrast between the period of your retirement from office, and that of your inauguration, speaks a lesson on the value of your administration to the country, too powerful for illustration or commentary. The present difficulties you know too well, have been caused by yourself and not by the misconduct of foreign nations. The federalists foresaw your perfidy, and forewarned the people of their danger; but you and your adherents talked of economy, of forbearance, of reason and philosophy, and the people were completely deluded into an entanglement, which we fear is now to be cut asunder by war, since it cannot be unravelled by negociation.

The disclosures lately made from the cabinet afford the most inevitable conclusions as to their former views and expectations. An acknowledged suppression of important documents, the French minister's declaration of alliance, Bonaparte's commendation of the Embargo, are items in the sum of depravity; but other particulars remain. The characters of your favourites are now to be brought to the test; the secretary at war, and the commander in chief, we expect will be rigorously scrutinized. And we hope if any charges are preferred against the secretary of the treasury, he will be better able to refute them, than that once made of his connection in a conspiracy against a former administration.

In the conduct of some statesmen, we can often discover nothing but the strangest attempts to reconcile perfidy and virtue, ignorance and philosophy, right and wrong. Your prevarications, innuendoes and deceptions about the last Embargo bill, are complete illustrations of this idea. You invade the constitution in forming a bill, the provisions of which it is a virtue in the people to oppose; and then you complain of rebellion; you expected to coerce foreign nations by the first Embargo measure; you have tried it for a twelve month, and now, you coerce your constituents by a military force: you first talked of enforcing the fifth Embargo bill in its fullest extent, and now you speak of removing it on the fourth of March. Are we again to be insulted, and again to be duped? You told us some time ago, through the papers of your party, that the measure would

be soon repealed; and the next news we hear of it, is its most rigorous enforcement. We are not to be again cajoled; you have deceived us twice; we can readily discover your views; and, as in the case of the duke of Grafton, nature now makes you 'treacherous without art, and a hypocrite without deceiving.' However variously we consider this last act, it is calculated to excite our astonishment as much as our hatred, and our contempt more than our resentment. Your invasions of the constitution have become so familiar to us of late, that the word is hardly recognized as belonging to our political vocabulary, so universally is it exploded. You have not only violated some of its most essential provisions by your measures, but have proceeded to enforce them with your power. You have taught the people to judge what they have to expect from an administration continued on the principles you have espoused; it is time for them to inform your successor what he may expect from them as an equivalent. But I presume he is prepared to retreat from the dangers you have caused; he will not have the hardihood to continue a measure, which you now shrink in contemplating.

As if the tyranny necessary to the enforcement of this system were not of itself sufficiently distressing; our calamity is aggravated by the consideration of the weakness with which it has been conducted. We cannot discover through the whole time it has continued, any thing to satisfy us of even tolerable abilities in our rulers. On the contrary every thing has concurred to prove them as destitute of foresight and wisdom, as they are of virtue and integrity. You first made a bill called a general Embargo law, then you added another, and another, and another, until you have multiplied them to six; and still they are evaded. This weakness is exceeded only by the wickedness, by which it was prompted. Bonaparte's commendation, and the suppression of Mr. Canning's letter, are sufficient to authorise the suspicion that our cabinet have been influenced by an evident preference towards France, and a confirmed hatred to Great-Britain. If any other disclosures are to be made, we hope, for the happiness of this nation, that God will exercise his retribution in this world, and render a splendid villain as miserable here, as he has been happy; that all succeeding statesmen may take council from the infamy of your example, to beware of the consequences, before they adopt measures from af-

fection or hatred to any foreign state. The charge of French influence formerly made, was not denied by the administration; and the adherents of the executive gloried in his dignified silence. Great-Britain's hostility, the wrongs she had done us, the injuries we had sustained from her, were the themes of your philippick; you either commended France, or were silent respecting her. But when the cry of secret influence was echoed through the country, you suddenly changed your tone, and France is now coupled with England in all the wrongs we have sustained. Whence is all this shifting? France is no more wrong now, than she was when you were silent; the clamours now vented against her are too violent to be sincere. Besides this, we do not hear a word about going to war with *her*; no, no, Great-Britain, is still the object against whom our restrictive energies are to be applied, though no apparent distinction is publickly made, between the injuries we have received from France and those which Great-Britain has inflicted.

This constructive treachery, however, was too humble a course to satisfy your present ambition; and you therefore are now the publickly acknowledged ally of the French nation. Had you only followed the dictates of your prudence, you would have remained perfidious in secret; but love of distinction has prevailed, and you are now the open enemy of your own nation. You aspire to the dignity of being detested, instead of the humble ambition of being despised. Go on, sir, increasing in vice until the period of your retirement from office, and your successor will then understand that the virtues for which he has been recommended by you to the office of President, can only render the possessor the object of universal execration and contempt.

MARCUS BRUTUS.

THE FREEMAN'S JOURNAL.

WE have to express our pleasure at an unsolicited notice from the editor of this paper; which, as it is couched in language the most poetical and obscure, we will endeavour to illustrate and explain. After informing his readers that the Ordeal has made its appearance in Boston, the editor of the Freeman's Journal proceeds to observe, that Mr. J. T. Buckingham is the publisher, who, he remarks, 'was the late ed-

itor of *The Polyanthos*, a dazzling, glittering, gaudy, trembling, transient flower, that sparkled, was exhaled and went to oblivion.' To the unlearned reader, all this may at first view seem very pretty and very plain; but the author means to tell him, that the Polyanthos was a *flower* which not only 'glistered' but 'sparkled,' was not only 'transient,' but *strange to tell*, went to—where? why, 'oblivion; A *flower* which was not only 'glittering' but 'dazzling,' not only 'dazzling' but 'gaudy.' If the reader should be puzzled to discover the distinction between *glitter* and *sparkle*, between a thing which is *transient* and that which goes early to *oblivion*; and between something *gaudy* and something *dazzling*; if he should not very readily comprehend how these qualities, could, in any stretch of applicability, refer very appropriately to a *flower*, he will be much more perplexed to find this very *flower* as such, *edited* by a certain gentleman; but being 'exhaled,' he could *edit* it no longer. Why the merits of the POLYANTHOS are mentioned at all in a notice of the ORDEAL, may perhaps excite surprise; but this sensation is powerless, when we observe the evident attempt of this writer, to confound the editor of this publication, and that of the Polyanthos, as one and the same person. After *smelling* thus long, at a 'dazzling, glittering, sparkling, gaudy, trembling, transient' *flower*, we do not wonder that the author was so bewildered with *sweet savour*, that the Ordeal should strike him very disagreeably at first view. *Unsweet, unflowerlike Ordeal*; how darest thou to *strike* so pure, *untautological* a writer? to strike him so disagreeably; and that too at the first view? You should at least have waited a reasonable time to get acquainted with a gentleman, before you behaved so rudely, and then perhaps he might then have shaken hands with you. Your very *frontispiece* annoys him, and indeed, nothing else seems to affect him much. 'It is,' says he, 'neither classical, ornamental, graceful nor even whimsical; it is perhaps, what the quizzing beaus and simpering misses of the fashionable circles, would call *quizzical*, and the best that can be said of it is, that it is in some measure *emblematical* of the nature and design of the work.'

This passage surely requires some illustration. First he quarrels with the *frontispiece*, because 'it is neither classical,' nor 'graceful,' nor 'ornamental;' because it is 'grotesque' and 'gross;' because it may be called 'quizzical;' and then to crown the whole, because it is '*emblematical* of the design of the work! Know, therefore, sapient reader, it is the *design of the work* with which this gentleman is so much exasperated; it is that which is thus *gross* and *grotesque*. 'The frontispiece is emblematical of the design of the work;' which, says this ingenious editor, is '*the best that can be said of it.*' If the frontispiece is *emblematical* of the design, all we have to say is, that as far as we are concerned in it, we are certainly much obliged to the editor of the Freeman's Journal, for the praise he has lavished upon it;

we think nothing can convey more appropriate panegyrick than that the execution is correspondent to the design. For what purpose was the frontispiece placed upon this publication? To be 'ornamental,' to be 'classical,' to be 'graceful,' to be 'whimsical,' or to convey '*the design?*' 'The object of a frontispiece,' says this editor, has only to do with the four first, the last is a secondary consideration. If this were true, however, let the artist who engraved it, and not the editor, be accountable.

The following sentence contains a specimen of the obscure which we think will perplex our readers, without some commentary. 'In presuming to lash the vices and follies of the literature and politicks, (and we suppose manners too, at least what the French call *the petty morals*) of the age with all the whips and scorpions of Juvenal, Churchill, Pope and Junius, the editor has undertaken a task far beyond his powers.' Now whether we consider the assertion in its expression or its meaning, we must admit it to be very remarkable. As to the expression, it would have been only common-place to speak of *lashing* with a *whip*, but this writer makes it uncommon, by talking of '*all the whips*;' this does not satisfy him, and he adds, 'all the *scorpions*,' of Juvenal, Churchill, Pope, and Junius. Does the author here mean by all the whips and all the scorpions, that each of these authors, individually considered, possessed more than *one whip or one scorpion?* If so, the undertaking would indeed be arduous; for separate from the difficulty of *lashing* any thing with *scorpions*, the trouble of holding all the whips, and all the scorpions, of Juvenal, Churchill, Pope and Junius, must be apparent to every one. The meaning it is no less important to illustrate than the expression. We are told that the editor has presumed to undertake a task far above his powers; which we admit to be the case, *if* he has undertaken to lash the politicks and the literature of the age, 'with all the whips and scorpions' of all the satirists just named. The editor of the Freeman's Journal, however, says he has; he takes for granted a fact grounded solely upon *his* interpretation of the frontispiece, but which it will not warrant. What man under heaven could presume, merely from a type-metal frontispiece, that the editor of this work could suppose himself inspired with all the wit of Juvenal, Pope, Junius and Churchill? No one we believe but the editor of the Freeman's Journal.

'The execution of the work is by no means, equal to its pretentions indicated by its title.' '*By and by*, is easily said,' was Hamlet's reply to Polonius; such an expression as that above, is to be said as easily of this or any other publication. It could be said of the Freeman's Journal, that it contained more foam without spirit, heaviness without strength, labour without cultivation, metaphor without application, zeal without sincerity, and a great many other things without a great many other things, than most papers of its long standing in the Unit-

ed States. But who would believe the assertion? particularly if in the only instance of 'the execution' of that paper to illustrate our idea, should be produced 'something of pith and pungency.' After saying that the Ordeal does not equal the pretentions indicated by its title, the editor of the Freeman's Journal proceeds to illustrate his position by quoting from our review of Mr. Giles's speech in our second number, half a column of what he calls 'matter of some pith and pungency.' Thus all the objection to our work, lies in the frontispiece; and all the proof of its not equalling the pretentions of the title, is found in matter which this editor considers of 'pith and pungency.'

Though we cannot imagine what has induced the editor of the Freeman's Journal to notice us thus unsolicited; yet we cannot but thank so enlightened, so poetical, *so accurate* a writer, and so *excellent* a critic, for stooping to our level.

PHILOLOGY.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

AS your work is said to be a Literary as well as Political Journal, I presume that early information of new publications will be acceptable both to you and your readers. I therefore send you the following extracts from a work which will shortly be published, which you are at liberty to insert in the Ordeal, on condition that my real name is to be kept a profound secret; as the publicity of it might subject me to the punishment prepared for the divulgers of inquisitorial secrets.

Yours, &c.

Andover, Jan. 20. PETER.

EXTRACTS
FROM A NEW THEOLOGICAL DICTIONARY.

ASSURANCE. A blessing, 'not bestowed on any one for meriting it by works of righteousness, diligence and zeal;' a facility of quoting scripture upon all occasions, and particularly passages, which are not remarkable for a delicacy in expression.

CHARITY. An obsolete word, used only among infidels. Excepting when quoted as a pretence for diffusing Hopkinsian tenets. To this end the profits of the Panoplist are devoted to *charitable* purposes.

CHURCH GOVERNMENT. That which under the appearance of piety, implies the most impious presumption; because it interferes in a Christian's connection with his Maker.

CONVERSION. The act of signing the creed; a giving up the right of private judgment.

CREED. A confession of faith, in which the person making the confession, solemnly renounces the use of all his reasoning and sensorial faculties, for the term of five years. He must also declare implicit belief, that there are THREE GODS, equal in power; that man is a free agent, utterly incapable of understanding his own thoughts, actions, or feelings; that he is irresistibly impelled to the commission of sin and wickedness, by an omnipotent decree, in order to exalt his Creator's glory and his own happiness; that St. Peter, John Calvin, and Samuel Hopkins, are one and the same person, who lived at different times and places; that the presence of the sun is not the cause of light, nor its absence that of darkness; that he who eats a Medford cracker, does at the same time drink punch and eat beef-steaks and oysters, &c. &c.

DEISM. A belief in one only living and true God, as taught in the scriptures.

DEIST. See UNITARIAN, INFIDEL. They do not deserve a distinction.*

ECCLESIASTICAL COUNCIL. A body of men having divine authority to exercise jurisdiction over the minds and consciences of others.

ELECT. Those persons who before their creation, were doomed to the eternal enjoyment of heaven. The number of *the elect* is supposed to be ONE among *nine hundred and ninety-nine millions of* those who have inhabited the earth.

EVANGELICAL PREACHING. A general denunciation of all ministers and churches who refuse to acknowledge the infallibility of the Papal Inquisition at Andover.

EVANGELICAL PREACHER. Such a one as

> ....." proves his doctrine orthodox
> By apostolick blows and knocks."

One who will stand in his pulpit and declare that if such ministers as B**********, E******, F******, and L***** go to heaven, he had rather be d——d than go there himself.

FAITH. A belief in any thing and every thing which reason shews to be absurd.

GOOD WORKS. Among deists and infidels, this phrase signifies a performance of moral duties and obligations; among the elect, a *man of good works* is one who buys the Panoplist at ten dollars a hundred to distribute among the poor, whom he oppresses by avarice, usury and extortion.

HELL. Generally supposed to be a lake of liquid fire; but a learned clergyman has lately and elegantly described it as 'something as much worse than liquid fire, as fire and brimstone are worse than the spicy atmosphere of Arabia, or the enchanting gardens of the Seraglio.'

* Panoplist. Doctor Mason's Remarks.

HOPEFUL CONVERTS. Children under nine years of age, any old woman and hypocritical young rakes; who say they are under concern, that their heads are giddy, and their imaginations wandering.

INFALLIBILITY. Exemption from common sense; freedom from the shackles of rationality.

INFIDEL. One who exercises his reason, and refuses to sign the creed of the Theological Institution; any one who doubts that Calvin and Hopkins were inspired from heaven.

INFIDELITY. Human reason.

INFLUENCE OF THE SPIRIT. An irresistible impulse of the mind, by which a convert is compelled to the belief of certain tenets, contrary to nature, reason and revelation. This influence operates in various ways. Its effects are sometimes seen in violent exertions of the fist, strainings of the eye-balls, and various contortions of the countenance; it is sometimes heard in most piteous groans and convulsive sobs. It was remarkably illustrated not long since at a Thursday lecture in Boston, by a reverend Doctor from New-York, in such monkey-like grimaces that the audience supposed him to be exhibiting a burlesque on some poor stage player. It was also wonderfully and powerfully exhibited a short time ago on Boston Common, by an itinerant preacher, who mounted a rock, and harangued the mob in a most delectable lecture, declaring that he was sent by THE SPIRIT to make the road to hell as hard as possible.*

ORTHODOXY. A belief in scripture, as construed by Calvin and Hopkins, and promulgated to the world in the Panoplist.

PREDESTINATION. A judgment of providence, by which it was determined from all eternity, that *the elect* should be saved against their own desire; and that for the glory of God, all the rest of mankind should suffer eternal damnation.

RELIGIOUS INTELLIGENCE. Letters, written by the editors of the Panoplist, under the assumed names of various missionaries in distant parts of the world. It is indispensably necessary that these letters should be perfectly unintelligible to common understandings; that every paragraph should contain at least five quotations from scripture, which quotations must be such as to raise some libidinous ideas in the mind of the reader; and each letter to be decorated with not less than ten words from the court languages of Owhyhee, Caffraria, Tungusian Tartary, and Patagonia; or contain an account of the conver-

* We perfectly recollect hearing this expression; but were ignorant at the time whether the learned preacher meant to be understood as intending to render this road difficult to travel, or to make it a turnpike, and thus increase the facility of passing; the expression we thought quite indefinite. The compilers of the *Theological Dictionary*, by their quoting this authority, undoubtedly understood it in the sense first mentioned.—Editors.

sion of some priest of the Grand Lama, Choctaw Chief, or Hottentot Princess. If some information of three year old infants, who expounded the various readings of scripture, in the Hebrew, Chaldean and Sanscrit tongues, can be introduced, it helps much to corroborate the intelligence.

THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY. A monument of christian liberality, the situation of which, it is impossible for any friend to evangelical truth in New-England or any where else to be ignorant.*

THE WORK. A cant phrase to express the behaviour of a collection of Hopeful Converts.

UNITARIANS. This name has been assumed by that class of christians, or rather deists, who acknowledge the only living and true GOD. But it is not a correct or appropriate term. Those who believe in a Trinity, or plurality of Gods, are, in the proper sense of the word, Unitarians.†

REVIEW.

OBSERVATIONS

On the "Works of JAMES ELLIOT, *citizen of Guilford, Vermont, and late a non-commissioned officer in the Legion of the United States."*

THE custom of reviewing publications, which have been printed many years, and have 'sparkled, been exhaled and gone to oblivion,' may be of doubtful authority; but we are not without some hopes of affording amusement to our readers, in giving them some account of the volume before us. The author is no other than that celebrated orator and statesman, who has so much distinguished himself in Congress, for the last five or six years; first as a violent, outrageous democrat; then as a temporising republican, and now as a sort of federalist. In giving this account of the author, we wish to bestow an interest on our review, which a mere reading of the title of the work under consideration would inevitably fail of producing. But when it is ascertained that the extracts we are about to give, are from the works of James Elliot, member in the Congress, and not a simple non-commissioned officer in the Legion of the United States, we expect the interest of every reader to be 'tremblingly alive' to the merits of the composition.

The works of Mr. Elliot consist of pieces of Poetry and Prose, of a very miscellaneous nature; but many of which, as the author informs us in his preface, 'had met with no inconsiderable share of publick fa-

* See Panoplist, Vol. I. new series, p. 209.

† See Panoplist, Vol. I. new series, p. 371.

vour,' in the periodical works of the day. The style of our author is very ambitious of figure, and ornament of every description; and his diction both poetical and prosaick is uncommonly lofty. The following extracts from 'Morning, an Ode,' will afford some specimen.

Aurora, hail! Illume each rural bower,
Each dale, each silent grove and vocal glade;
Behold the starry spheres retire,
The ruddy morn its charms display;
And distant, in the spotless skies,
Behold yon orient orb arise,
Phœbus, the glorious PRESIDENT of day!

Those, who are pleased with this, will be also pleased to hear how *transient* are the charms of this President;

Alas, how *transient* are thy charms,
A moment only in our arms,
Then left in tears, thy flight to grieve:
While scarce a SUN illumes our noon,
And scarce a solitary MOON
Appears to gild the gloom of eve!

Here is introduced a most rapturous effusion.

Emerg'd from scenes of INFANT strife,
The fire of YOUTH begins to rage,
Impetuous, passionate, and vain;
We storm the barriers which impede our course,
And moving onward with resistless force,
O'er MANHOOD's variegated plain,
Reach the meridian altitude of AGE.
Once past the torrid NOON OF LIFE,
We soar swift as the eagle's flight
Down time's declivity, with gasping breath,
Drink the Lethiferous DEW of DEATH;
Then sink in the chaotick gloom of endless night.

Here the metaphors relating to life are variously multiplied in the same sentence. The *fire of youth*, *scenes* of *infant* strife, *manhood's* variegated *plain*, the *torrid noon of life*, and Lethiferous *dew of death*, are nothing, to *soaring!* swift as the eagle's flight, *down!* time's declivity; and then sinking in the *chaotick gloom of endless night*.

We have various pieces which evince the politicks of our author at that period; we find in 'An Address to Thomas Paine, citizen of the World,' the following lines which we cannot help quoting as very applicable to the subject.

'Favour'd of *Heaven!* Belov'd by all mankind,'

end,

'The muses greet thee, and the world approves.'

In addition to this we discover in 'The *American's* prayer for FRANCE,' these remarkable lines:

'Grant, mighty ruler of the world,
That France may yet enjoy repose;
And not be to destruction hurl'd,
But triumph o'er her numerous foes.
Lord, in her cabinet preside!
In *thee* her warriors firmly *trust*,
In thee her chosen sons confide,
Her heroes brave, her rulers just.'

The praise bestowed on France, is so uncommonly just, that we cannot be surprised to find 'an Ode to Equality!' opening with these lines,

All hail, divine EQUALITY,
Benignant daughter of the sky;
Sister and friend of *Godlike* liberty.

Yes, *Godlike* liberty, whom he has just before spoken of as

'Enchanting *nymph*, sweet *liberty*.'

His prose is not less ambitious than his rhyme. He remarks that the 'umbrage' of the trees along the banks of the river Ohio has 'delectable effect, and is extremely refreshing to passengers in a hot season;' but that in some places the trees have fallen into the stream, which he says very sagely, 'ought to be prohibited by law.' He then bursts forth in the following sublime description.

'All is serene and cloudless. Suddenly some fleeting clouds cast a gloomy shade over the obscure mantle of the sky. The rumbling thunder is heard at a distance. The livid lightning gleams through the circumambient air. The wind *rises*. The shower *descends*. The gale is in our favour, and the *oars-men* exert all their strength, and we descend with velocity. We turn a point of land, and it immediately recedes from our view, enveloped in an impenetrable veil of mist and vapour. Our canvass canopy but feebly resists the fury of the torrent, which threatens our frail vessel with destructive inundation.

'At length the storm subsides. Sheets of mist arise on every side from the borders of the river. The clouds dissipate. Again we behold the cheering rays of Phœbus. Again the skies are serene and the air cool and fragrant. Again the feathered warblers chant their melodious notes on every spray.'

The eloquence of this passage will serve as an example of the merits of his lofty style. But in a subsequent part of the volume, he indulges in the reflection of what will be said of him in succeeding ages; and

very comfortably pronounces his own character, as he thinks it will be estimated by 'Prince Posterity.'

After remarking that 'Horace was vain of his literary efforts,' that Cicero was as much distinguished for vanity as eloquence; and that Addison had given a sketch of the fine things he imagined would be said of him, in after ages, our author thus proceeds, 'surely I need not blush to imitate such illustrious examples. I imagine then, that *posterity* will give *me* the following character:' p. 238.

'Young Elliot possessed several of the eccentricities, and a few of the useful qualities of genius. But his genius was far from being of the most exalted kind. Nature perhaps intended him for a poet; he had not in his composition, scarce a particle of what constitutes a philosopher. Nature had given him strong appetites for sensual pleasures; but he early learned to restrain his inclinations, within the bounds marked out by reason and morality.'

This, it is to be observed, is all to be discovered in his writings; but he goes on to admit, that,

'He had violent passions and prejudices. In manners he was far from being polished. In conversation he was sometimes irritable and dogmatick. In friendship he was warm and sincere,' &c.

'In his youth' among other things, 'he was infected with the *itch* of writing. He collected and published his lucubrations, and never afterwards resumed his pen.'

In this instance posterity must be a liar, since we understand the lucubrations of Mr. Elliot now dignify the columns of a southern paper called the Freeman's Journal. Our author then proceeds:

'Some passages in his writings are yet read with pleasure,' (veracity again) 'and the rest have sunk into oblivion, and they did not deserve a better fate.' (No falsehood here, however.) 'He frequently declared, he would rather go to prison for speaking his sentiments, than to Congress for dissembling them.' Mr. Elliot is now in Congress; the insinuation here was prophetick.

We shall terminate our remarks with the conclusion of his character, as thus drawn by himself:

'Had he been the arbiter of his own fortune, he would have preferred a decent competency in the silent solitude of rural life, to all the splendour of nobility, and *all the pomp of office*. He early bid adieu to what the world calls pleasure. The few hours he was not obliged to devote to business, were spent in the study of the classick authors, and the politicks of the times. He lived and died a christian and a republican.'

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?...*Cic.*

Hume and Finley

ARE names oddly coupled; yet the closing circumstances of their lives strongly invited the contrast. If the Ordeal has exposed the lame logick of the Christian's Magazine, the candid reader of the whole account will, however, see the point of the writer. A portion of honour was impliedly conceded to the skeptick for his calmness, or his death would not have been opposed to that of the christian: yet that this little honour should finally be wrested from him by Dr. Mason was hardly fair. To me, a plain-spoken christian, incapable of drawing such fine pictures as Dr. Mason, and fearing to treat the subject of religion with flippancy, the path of propriety seems to lie between the conduct of the two celebrated men. No christian would wish for the skepticism of Hume; none dares thus trifle with futurity: and every rational christian cannot help being somewhat disgusted with the vanity and extravagance of Dr. Finley. In the death of this man, we hear almost the ravings of fanaticism; in that of the deist, the sullen, cheerless monotony of the stoick. Dr. Mason says 'no infidel dies a triumphant death.' Infidelity loses nothing by this fact. Extatick feelings and expressions suit not with the sober sadness of a dying hour: there is nothing in them of natural reason, or religion. The death of Jesus Christ, showed as much of honour as of consolation. Hume affected to contemn death; Finley to triumph over it: the humble christian does neither. The exit of the first, betrays the pride of a philosopher; of the last, the pride of a saint: an enemy of all pride whatever, I would wish living and dying to cherish the temper of unostentatious penitence. Nevertheless I would rather emulate the assurance of Samuel Finley, than be frozen with the rigours of David Hume. Most of all would I desire to die like my master, who had no will but God's, and who, expiring, said, 'Father, into thy hands I commit my spirit.'

Examples of Elegant Metaphor, from a late Speech.

"WHAT then is to be done? States, towns and individuals have their favourite projects. The Union *have theirs*. Thus *jarring (how jarring?)* are we with augmented resentments *to rush together in ruinous collisions?* Are we with mutual *hatred* to rend asunder the bands which have united us? To *throw* from our *vitals* the very shield which protects them?"

This throwing from our vitals one would think were the consequence of a dose of medicine; but no, it is about a shield. The *throwing a shield*, and the protecting of our *vitals* with a shield, are figures of rhetorick suitable to the rest of a gubernatorial speech, and it must be confessed are as novel as the unfledged principles which it contains.

Could our citizens dictate a measure to Congress, and force its adoption, 'then we should have prostrated the government, and have *trampled under our feet*, (what, the government we had prostrated? no,) the last *reserve* of national power. Could the *opposition* prevail, a part coerce the whole, *our rights and our strength* would be *scattered to the winds*. As a *nation we should perish*,' (then the next assertion is pretty clear) 'as freemen be lost. Our palladium, our ark, our national bulwarks would be *shattered*,' and (this term was necessary to prepare the mind for their being afterwards) '*broken* to atoms. Then might we single-handed meet the crisis; and buffetting the destruction *threatened* from the deep, conflict with the clouds *above*, which in angry collisions are ready to break on our heads.' Wonderful people we should be, not only to *buffet*, that is, fight with *destruction*, which one would suppose would naturally *destroy us*, but more; conflict with the *clouds*, which we are told for a wonder are 'above us,' clouds *too so angry* that they are not only already *in collision*, but *mark!* are now *ready* to break on our heads.' This figure, however, seems to include something so remarkable, that the author of the speech thinks best to say immediately, 'but this can never be,' and we most assuredly agree with him. No, it can never be; 'Americans will rally round the national constitution, cling to their government, and should it be driven to *the edge of a precipice*, keep their *hold in the extremity* (of what? why,) 'its exit, and sink with it into an awful abyss.' Yes, tumble down with the *extremity*, into the '*dark profound*;' which term we imagine is very descriptive of the speech itself.

Now for Grammar.

'Is the *preventative** against all these, and *worse* calamities now to be abandoned; and *these and worse ones* to be invoked to afflict us?' No tautology here.

Poplar Trees.

WHEREAS the publick roads of this commonwealth are destitute of POPLAR trees; and whereas the planting them along their borders would, according to my speech, 'not only give ornament to the country,' but answer in lieu of taverns, 'and give comfort and refreshment

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* *Preventative*; let the author seek for the word in Johnson or Walker.

to the traveller,' and some forty years hence, when they may be cut down, will give 'fuel to the planters, and gratification to all;' and WHEREAS the legislature will disregard my recommendations, this is *to inform all whom it may concern*, that whoever will plant ten poplar trees, of good size, and such as take root, on any turnpike, regularly incorporated by the legislature of this commonwealth, that their present Lieut. Governour, will, if he should happen to be chosen Governour at the next election, make a speech in favour of such person or persons, and recommend him or them to the patronage of the legislature; and whoever will plant twenty trees, as before described, shall not only be mentioned in the speech, but shall be honoured with a gubernatorial metaphor, into the bargain.

Done in the Council chamber, on this 6th day of February, 1809.

By ME,

THE LIEUT. GOVERNOUR OF MASSACHUSETTS.

The Legislature of Massachusetts.

'Are ye not mark'd, ye men of Dalecarlia,
Are ye not mark'd, by all the suffering world,
As the last stake, the grand effort for liberty?'

IT is to be hoped that the *tone*, which this Legislature assumes, is not merely to be an *echo* of what their constituents have told them; but that it will be loud, tremendous, and bold; so that it may be a terrour to our wavering and uncertain rulers at Washington. The people do not want to be informed of what *they have said*, but what their *representatives* intend *to do*. A meek, temporising, moderate system of management is not equal to guide, much less to command the passions of these times. He, who undertakes to 'ride the whirlwind and direct the storm,' *must* have energy. But our Committee on Petitions in the house were so lamb-like, meek and gentle, that their report passed without opposition or debate. We had hoped better things.

TO READERS AND CORRESPONDENTS.

THE Review of a Sermon on the Death of the late Governour SULLIVAN, sent by a Correspondent, shall be inserted in our next number.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 7.] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICKS.

WE are governed by a set of drivellers, whose folly takes away all dignity from distress, and makes even calamity ridiculous. STEELE.

I believe there is yet a spirit of resistance in this country, which will not submit to be oppressed; but I am sure there is a fund of good sense in this country, which cannot be deceived. JUNIUS.

LETTER.—N°. 4.

To the Honourable JAMES MADISON, Secretary of State.

SIR,

AS by the suffrages of the people you are soon to be exalted to the highest official situation in their gift, it is expected that from the point of your elevation, you will observe with circumspection the paths which will then be unfolded to your view. Though we have no reason to believe that Mr. Jefferson's successor, the man who has been declared to be pledged to continue the course of his policy, will be eminently wise or scrupulously virtuous; yet we are willing for the present to suspend the clamours of opposition, in silent solicitude and breathless attention. It will be difficult for you, in the most sincere anxiety for the publick welfare, ever to restore to us our former happiness, the measures of your predecessor have so effectually destroyed our hopes; but though the best expedient to be adopted at this crisis may create some doubt, the path of honour and integrity can never be mistaken, and should never be deserted. I hope, sir, the intoxication of success will not render you neglectful of the precautions of prudence, nor careless of the lessons of monition. Recollect the mutability of popular favour. A single hiss has oftentimes been sufficient to change the most tumultuous plaudits into clamorous reprobation. The scrutiny with which your conduct will be investigated, ought not to be considered unreasonable or unjust; you ought rather to be stim-

ulated by it to efforts of virtuous exertion. But in the practice of your virtue let your conduct be so fair and unreserved, that, like Portia's, it may not only be free from objection but suspicion. We have too dearly experienced in your predecessor, that hypocrisy and sincerity have a strong exteriour resemblance; do not *you* disappoint us by suffering any thing to appear, which may be mistaken for the garb of virtue, covering the body of corruption. No, sir, in you we hope to realize more virtuous principles, more practical good, and more impartial justice, than have yet been shewn by the administration of the present men in power; but our hopes, we confess, are not so much the effects of just expectation, as our most earnest but presumptuous wishes.

We will not now enquire, sir, how honourably you have deserved the office to which you are destined; let Mr. Munroe, if he has the disposition, make the investigation. When he returned from Europe, the clamours of his party in favour of his being an opposing candidate for the presidency were both frequent and loud. He was expected to have divided the suffrages of Virginia, at least equally, with you; he justly complained of the treatment he experienced from Mr. Jefferson, on the treaty he had negociated with Great-Britain, and he excited the sympathies of his own party, and many federalists in his favour. How has it happened, by what excess of folly on his part has it been produced, that all this clamour for unworthy treatment, and all this increasing popularity have been suffered to subside into a silence, equally astonishing and profound? Was his affected satisfaction contained in his correspondence with the president only a gloss to cover the secret compensations of the cabinet? What powerful reasons, sir, did you present him, to induce him to relinquish his claims on the publick support; and how many did he require, to be convinced that the necessities of the country demanded a union of his party with yours? I ask you, sir, these questions, for you only can answer me in *words*; you will not do it, nor can I require it, since your *conduct* is a sufficient reply. But, sir, the arrangements between Mr. Munroe and yourself are of little consequence to the publick; they are minor considerations, whilst the people are overwhelmed with calamity, which excites all their anxiety, and by means of a policy, which incurs all their reproach.

However *honest* Mr. Jefferson may have been supposed by his party, in the utmost extravagance of their belief, the most enthusiastick admirer cannot deny, that his measures have involved the country in distress, which may terminate in destruction. The pertinacious adherence of the administration to the universal exemption of the American merchants' ships from search for deserters, has been the origin of the most serious difficulties which we endure. The principle which they have contended for is neither correct in argument, nor would it be beneficial in practice, even as far as it regards ourselves; and as it certainly would be utterly injurious to Great-Britain to concede it, we ought not to require the concession. Our unaccommodating temper on this subject has evidently produced in the mind of that ministry, a belief that so long as such an administration as that of Mr. Jefferson continues in power, it will be vain to seek an adjustment of differences. Let us consider for a moment the present obstructions to an accommodation with that nation, by mentioning the principles which you have so long been labouring to establish, and those which Great-Britain has determined to enforce. First, we require the universal immunity of the neutral flag, as respects seamen; second, a complete participation in the commerce of one belligerent to the detriment of another: we have issued non-importation acts, we have proclaimed to the world the injustice of Great-Britain, interdicted the approach of her ships towards our harbours; refused to accept of an honourable reparation, for the national indignity we have sustained. Great-Britain, on the contrary, has cut short our claims, in respect to seamen, by her proclamations respecting that subject, and her Orders in Council have closed the discussion on our commercial rights. Our embargo too operates greatly to her advantage, and by the last dispatches from Mr. Pinckney, all hopes from negociation are at an end, while the temper of our administration remains thus hostile. The embargo has defeated our own views which were evidently hostile to Great-Britain; she laughs at its impotency, and is justified in treating us with the most sovereign contempt. Let us see how the account stands, and observe the number of impediments to our accommodation with that power, before, according to our former principles, we can have any commercial arrangement with her.

First, she must repeal her Orders in Council:
Second, her Proclamation respecting seamen:

Third, she must send another mission to this country, for the purpose of repairing the Chesapeak indignity, and then we will consent to grant her our patronage and support. The objection she makes to these uncommon advantages, are; first of all, your embargo hurts yourselves and is beneficial to us; second, you cannot entirely prevent the introduction of our manufactures in your country; third, you are evidently partial to France; fourth, our Orders in Council cannot be repealed without a virtual acknowledgment, that we cannot maintain the measure against our enemy; fifth, we are determined to maintain our proclamation respecting seamen; for if our Orders in Council are only to be defended as an act of necessity or retaliation, our right in this case is clear and indisputable; sixth, the negociation on the Chesapeak affair is at an end, until your proclamation respecting our men-of-war shall be rescinded. These difficulties and more are evidently to be removed before we can be again restored to our former chances of success. These are our prospects abroad; and at home they are not less gloomy and foreboding.

We have traced your predecessor, from his humble endeavours to unite contradictory parties, to his mild perseverance in dangerous neutral claims; and from his peremptory threats of hostility on foreign nations, to his exercise of that hostility on the liberties of this people. We see the constitution invaded, and distraction and despair every where increasing; we see force displace opinion, and the sword the argument of philosophy. Under this state of things, it is useless to tell us that concessions to Great-Britain would be evident subjugation; for if such a state of things continue it is of very little consequence whether we are subjugated or not. How then are our distresses to be relieved? Our hopes, sir, rest in you; as it has been one of the earliest actions of your political life, to defend the constitution, we pray it may be the last, that you should preserve it from deterioration. We are told that the first act of your official duty will be to repeal the last embargo bill; we hope it is true, not only for your honour but your safety. You will then reflect, sir, how ridiculous, hateful, and contemptible your predecessor will appear. He completely confounds the arts of op-

position, by relieving them from the necessity of proving the turpitude and impolicy of the measure; since he admits them by the act of repeal. How the popularity of such a ruler can continue for a moment, appears to me equally dishonourable and unaccountable. If wisdom and virtue are requisite qualities for our rulers, how can the people admire such a man as Mr. Jefferson, in whom, by this very act, they can discover nothing but a complete destitution of both? It can only be reconciled by manifest confusion of ideas, and the grossest perversion of language; for it supposes the people can believe a thing true, after it is proved to be false; and a statesman wise, after his own admission has pronounced him a blockhead.

To you, sir, we look up for succour in despair; for we hope your predecessor will be disappointed in your character. He, no doubt, looked around him for a man fit to succeed him in ruining the country. He had seen the benign influence of the sunshine of Washington's virtues daily increase the publick prosperity and happiness. The gristle and nerve of Mr. Adams was a happy succession; but our happiness has been blighted under the baleful shadow of Mr. Jefferson's policy. He doubtless expects to find you a man prostituted to his views, too servile to resist or to oppose them. He presumes that you will follow a course of danger from which, though he has escaped with life, yet he thinks you will not be so successful; but that either his favourite project of annihilating the extensive commerce of this country must be effected, or his successor must perish in attempting to enforce it. You will enrage him with disappointment, by relieving the desponding hopes of the people; and you will pursue measures calculated to diffuse peace and prosperity throughout the country, even if you drive your predecessor to commit suicide at the disappointment of his ambition.

MARCUS BRUTUS.

MR. BUCKMINSTER'S SERMON.

THE following review was communicated by a correspondent: the principle which it reprobates, *of concealing the failings of the dead, because they can no longer suffer by the detection*, is manifestly unjust, when applied to publick characters. They are in some degree the

property of the publick, and it is but reasonable, that a proper and judicious estimate should be made of the value of their services; and that value will not be accurately determined unless the motives to their actions are considered. Besides, indiscriminate panegyrick on publick men, merely because they happen to die in office, has a direct tendency to confound right and wrong. If Mr. Jefferson were now to yield up his life, either naturally or not, would it not be highly unjust and dishonourable for the Federal papers to go into mourning, and insert long and tedious panegyricks on the *sincerity of his heart, the clearness of his head, and the practical utility of his measures*, when such editors could not but be sensible that it has been difficult to determine, for which of the opposites of those qualities he has been most distinguished; whether for the duplicity of his disposition, the blindness of his reasoning, or the visionary absurdity of his political schemes?

How far the sermon of Mr. Buckminster is chargeable with the predominant fault ascribed to it, we cannot determine, for we have never perused it. At any rate, if any person is offended by the review, the pages of the Ordeal are open to his objections. EDITORS.

REVIEW.

Of a Sermon preached at the Church in Brattle-Street, Boston, December 18th, 1808, the Lord's day after the publick funeral of his Excellency JAMES SULLIVAN, *Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. By* JOSEPH S. BUCKMINSTER, *Minister of the Society in Brattle-Street.*

Rom. xiv. 7. For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself.

OUR intention in noticing this sermon is not so much for the purpose of reviewing its style, as the panegyrick it contains on our late Governour. We think the mischief to society incalculable from the adoption of the sentiment *that it is an act of piety to hide the faults and failings of our friends, when they can no longer suffer by the detection.*

That this sentiment is now fast gaining ground in the publick mind is too evident from the fulsome and uniform encomiums with which every character is adorned, that is obtruded on our attention through the medium of gazettes. But we did believe that this prostitution of truth had not obtained in the more solemn and grave compositions of the pulpit; that a minister of Jesus would not, *from personal friendship, permit his fear, his gratitude, or his tenderness, to overpower his fidelity, and tempt him to conceal if not to invent.*

We need not express our astonishment at the sad reverse this sermon presented, nor the feelings of pity and indignation that alternately bore sway over our minds at its perusal. And we should have spared ourselves these observations, and have believed that *the judgment* of our reverend author was the dupe of his *heart*, had he

been content to have held up to our view *the history only* of our late Governour. But when we found Mr. B. attempting to steal a march on our understandings, by more than once deprecating the idea, *that he stood in his pulpit to prate the dead, or flatter the living*, we could not refrain our marked disapprobation of an attempt at deception in a mode so far beneath his character. For he, who thus endeavours to gain credence, ought to be considered the common enemy of mankind; like the pirate, who holds out false colours with the same view.

It has been regretted that biography has been allowed to writers very little acquainted with the nature of their task; and on no occasion could it have been more deeply regretted, than the solemn one on which our author discoursed. The legitimate object of biography must be to encourage virtue, by presenting to its view eminent examples of excellence for imitation; and to repress vice, by shewing its hideous and deformed features, in the characters of the abandoned and depraved. It is therefore generally conceded, that characters which can not afford striking illustrations of either extreme, it is worse than useless to portray. And as from the life of Governour Sullivan a copy of neither could be produced, we remain at a loss for the necessity of this unsolicited biography. Perhaps our author may plead custom for his defence; yet custom ought not to sanction error. But we forbear sinking the motive that led to this eulogy, when the *undeserved panegyric* itself ought to be the subject of our animadversion.

We willingly allow Mr. B. the merit of illustrating his text, in general, in a spirited and lively manner; and even yield to him the propriety of comparing *the mind of his Excellency to a forest which had never been entirely cleared*. As to the rest of this encomiastick piece, it is utterly impossible to discover throughout it any thing but fiction.

The whole life of Governour Sullivan contradicts the assertion, *that he did not live unto himself alone*. Personal aggrandizement was his constant aim; and by one of those unaccountable freaks of fortune, and fluctuations of popular opinion, which now and then occur in the affairs of this world, he obtained the chief magistracy of the commonwealth.

> Qualis ex humili magna ad fastigia rerum,
> Extollit, quoties voluit fortuna jocari. JUVENAL, Sat. 3.

His conduct as a politician was so changeable, as to make him by turns the jest and scorn of all parties: and in his deportment as a man, the irritability of his temper, and irreconcilable enmity of his character gave universal disgust. In short, we refrain detailing what has already become too stale for a newspaper. And whether we view our late governour as a scholar, a lawyer, or a statesman, we shall find him throughout, excessively ignorant, incorrect, and versatile. As a summary of what is a true description of the man, it may be said that his

mind dwelt upon nothing long; it grasped more than it could contain, and in flitting over the surface, it drew in but shallow draughts from the fountains of science.

We conclude this notice, with recalling to the recollection of our reverend author, for his future guidance, an axiom of uncommon excellence, *that if we owe regard to the memory of the dead, there is yet more respect to be paid to knowledge, to virtue, and to truth.*

MEETING *of the* FRIENDS *to the* EMBARGO AND COMPULSION.

[The friends of the administration, it was presumed by the Federalists, would have been driven from all hope of defending their measures, since the passing of the last embargo bill; but the following *Chronicle* will convince us that they adhere to their former principles, and defend the cause of Mr. Jefferson as stoutly as ever.]

THE friends of the administration, taking into their most wise consideration, that the federal opposition to the measures of government threatened no less than 'to ravage our land with havock, rebellion and murder,' conceived that nothing 'could absolve them from the curses of indignant posterity biting their chains and breaking their teeth in slavery,' but a meeting at this most eventful crisis, expressing the *sense* of their assembly. They saw with concern, 'among *some sections* of the northern states, *many* the dupes of delusion, without enquiry for themselves, but compelled by crafty orders, or profession aiming to seize the *reigns*,' seem determined to crush the glorious fabrick; and therefore, the GRAND-DRAGON tavern, at 7 o'clock, one evening last week, found them all assembled, *in number few but tatr ible, in virtue*, in the largest room of that renowned resort. The gentlemen who attended were demagogs of the first water; *gentlemen of* the Senate and House of Representatives of this State, as well as *gentlemen* inhabitants of this respectable town, so celebrated for *salt fish and civil furs*. After several observations from one of the party, Mr. ——, nominated the Honourable Mr. D——, as moderator; he was chosen by a hand vote, although there were some objections whispered, that he lived out of town, and that as one of their own orators in a late town meeting, had publickly desired all country gentlemen to withdraw from that assembly, it would be very inconsistent not only to let such a person *vote* along with them now, but choose him chairman too. The objection however was silenced almost as soon as made, and Mr. D—— opened the meeting. After looking round benignantly for approbation upon the spectators, as is his common custom in the Senate, he smiling, simpered out the following harangue:

Fellow citizens! You all know as well as I do, the object of this meeting; we come here *to say to the* government, that we believe the embargo to be a good measure, that we have no doubt foreign nations think so; and that besides, if it continue a few years longer, there will be no oppression in it. We have met here to say that the last embargo bill is constitutional in all its provisions; and that *if it isn't*, it was dictated by necessity: besides, I always said that government *had a rod in pickle* for the *Federals*. We are, I presume prepared to say, that the suppression of Mr. Canning's letter, was conformable to the republican spirit of telling the people *all*; that the President is not under French influence, and that the *Federals* are a parcel of impudent, inveterate fellows, that do *not* deserve *no* confidence among the republicans. I say, gentlemen, that we must come *forerd* at this time, to say all this, whatever our real opinions may be. For my own part, I do not believe that the embargo has any—*but the least said is soonest mended*; so gentlemen please to express your minds on this occasion. [Loud applauses!]

Mr. D—— after this *luminous* introduction, which we consider to have been in his very best style, both as to manner and matter, sat down, amidst applauses equally loud and well deserved.

After a few moments of modest suspence, that celebrated patriot and injured man, Mr. A——, addressed the assembly. He began by observing that the eloquence of the chairman had very truly unfolded the intentions of the meeting; that the opinions of the honourable gentleman were perfectly congenial to his. Do we not, said he, see the town completely ruled by British agents and British gold; are they not exciting the people to rebellion and murder, against an administration the most virtuous, patriotick and magnanimous that ever was seen upon the face of the earth? An administration headed by a Jefferson, a patriot without spot or blemish, who, like Cincinnatus and Washington, is now retiring to his farm; loaded, sir, not with British gold and tory adulation, but with the benedictions of all good republicans. It has *been* said, sir, that I hold a *fat* office under this administration, and that therefore I have an interest in supporting it. Sir, on this topick, said Mr. A——, as I see the floor 'paved with faces,' I shall beg leave to observe, that I disclaim such sinister designs; *I* hold a fat office! look at me, sir; do I appear as if any office had *fattened me*; do I appear like the blood-sucker of the people? No, sir, I hope you will exonerate me, and I hope my fellow citizens, who may hear me, will exonerate me from so foul and false an imputation. [*Loud and violent applauses.*] I, sir, have suffered for my politicks; but I have been in hot water too long now, sir, to mind a little scalding. I am asked to join the party of British agents who are opposed to our virtuous and patriotick administration, who are doing all they can to render it ridiculous in the eyes of foreign nations; as if the measures of government

did not speak for themselves. [*Laughter.*] And, sir, what is my answer? why, sir, it is this, that I can never act with a set of men that will suffer a murderer to walk abroad at noon-day, who will declare the last embargo act unconstitutional, and who will say that the Mr. Jefferson's suppression of the publick document from Mr. Canning, that worse minister than Lord North or the Duke of Grafton, savours of French influence. No, sir, when sedition rears her *gorgon* head, shall I flinch, shall I budge? Sir, I challenge any of my fellow citizens, I challenge any British agent or old tory, if any such are present, to come forward and say that I shall. [*Tumultuous cheering.*]

Sir, how could government have acted differently, from the manner in which they have acted? The tories should be the last persons to complain. Was not the British taxation of these states defended by them in 1775; and does the enforcement of the laws of their own country now frighten them? But how could government act, said Mr. A——? I take it for granted, sir, that the embargo system was *necessary*, this I presume no one in this assembly will deny; and that if it had not been for our internal dissensions, the British government would have repealed her Orders in Council six months ago; this assertion he challenged any gentleman to controvert: now, sir, if the people would oppose or evade the operation of the laws, so that the administration could not have a fair chance for their experiment, why, I say, sir, their conduct in laying the new law was just and natural. While human nature exists as it does now, government will enforce their policy, and such philosophers as Mr. Jefferson will require time to test the truth of their experiments. But, sir, has not the effect of this new law been happy beyond example? Are not the tories frightened? They know not how to act; the legislature is puzzled as much as they are; and in the mean time, the army is preparing and collecting, to come to Boston and enforce the law, if not by reason, yet at the point of the bayonet! [*Loud applause, and evident satisfaction.*]

He had no idea, he said, of being charged with inconsistency in thus indulging the delights of anticipation, when the military should control the civil power, and make the people happy in spite of their opposition. He was not inconsistent, he contended; to be sure he was as much opposed to the *British* enforcement of taxation before the war as any gentleman; but now, if he opposed similar attempts, it would be going against the government of our own choosing, and one which hates the tories as much as he did. For his part, he saw in this wholesome correction of the stomach of the body politick, no poisonous ingredient; it might be unpalatable, but it became necessary for the national health, to adopt such prescriptions. He saw, in the opposers of this system only a junto, who look on *freedom* with a distempered eye; who wish to blow up the administration, to riot on the spoil.

He called on the perturbed spirit of Washington, in its ethereal a-

bode, to blast their hopes, and paralyze their energies: he said that, 'as pestilential vapours obstructing the rays of the sun and infecting the genial breeze, threaten destruction to the natural body; so does any interference of the state legislature to counteract the direct and genial vivifying operation of the federal government at this particular time, and so much, forebode the dissolution of the body politick.' [*Loud and tumultuous huzzas.*] He said that, for his part, he should sit down prepared to vote for any thing that should be brought forward by gentlemen, and he wished the moderator to consider him as having seconded any motion, which might be made.

This speech, which was in the most effective and impressive manner of the venerable speaker, seemed to be received with much avidity; and when he alluded to his leanness, and to the necessity of *compelling* the people to be happy, at the expense of letting flow the blood of the opposition, the audience bent with rapture and amazement on his lips. He was followed by Dr. H——, who made a long, and Mr. J——, who made a very oratorical speech; when Mr. B—— rose. He felt himself imperiously called upon, he said, by the allusions which had been made to *fat offices*, and to the evasions of the embargo laws. He took a very rapid glance at the impending difficulties of the nation, and the virtue and wisdom of government. He spoke of the French revolution, and the Ishmaelites of the ocean; he said we should go to war with FRANCE and not with ENGLAND. [*Violent tumult.*] Yes, he repeated it, we should, and must go to war with France; the Orders in Council, he had no doubt were already repealed in our favour; the last embargo law, and all the laws were constitutional; he was public prosecutor; he had attended to them, he had proved them so on a late occasion, [*loud applause,*] although he had been *dexterously* opposed. [*Cries of laughing at this wit.*] On that occasion he again remarked, that it was worse than useless to have spoken; had an angel descended from heaven, to speak in favour of Mr. Jefferson, before the *junto*, they would not have been convinced; he could not convince them. Mr. B—— acknowledged he had an office; it was a trouble to him; but it was for the good of his country that he held it; he therefore gloried in it. He said the time might come, when he should no longer be permitted to speak to his fellow citizens; he dreaded such times; he had a family, he had a house in Franklin Place; he called on Washington, he appealed to that hero's letters; he eulogized Mr. Jefferson, and praised Mr. Madison; he denounced the idea of a separation of the states; made an elegant allusion to the late speech of the Lieut. Governour; sneered at the impotency of the measures of the state legislature, and concluded in the language of a great statesman and patriot, 'society is yet strong, Americans virtuous and enlightened; Americans, steady and determined, will continue their confidence in their efforts. They will rally round the national constitution, cling to their government, and

should they be driven to the edge of a precipice, keep their hold on the extremity of its cut, and sink with it into the awful abyss!! The tumultuous applause when Mr. B—— closed; the clapping of hands, throwing up hats, and the loud huzzas, obliged the audience to open the windows for the sake of some air. Mr. A——, the town-crier, then rose; he said that the embargo was a heavenly visitation for the sins of this people, that God willed it, that true religion began to flourish, and when it spread all over the land the embargo would come off of itself. That heaven had sent the frost to blockade our harbour; that it came on purpose to aid the government. That Mr. Jefferson was an angel, that he himself was formerly town-crier, that now he was religious; that he formerly cried lost children, but now he was lost himself; lost in the heaven of heavens. He said he was a good citizen, paid taxes; he hoped the embargo would remain on as a punishment for the sins of the people. [*Remainder in our next.*]

THE STAGE.

REMARKS on 'FOSCARI, *or the* VENETIAN EXILE,' a *Tragedy, written by* JOHN B. WHITE, Esq. *printed at Charleston.*

AMONG indifferent writers, nothing is more frequent than their prefatory anticipations of critical condemnation; these gentlemen rebels of the courts of Parnassus, apparently sensible of the inferiority of their station, are continually deprecating the authority of reviewers, whilst their very nerves are trembling at the dictates of the critick Such, we imagine, are the opinions of Mr. White, from the deplorable strain of the prologue to this piece, which seems in its very terms to authorise the propriety of the severest reprehension.

'He, trembling, doubts, yet strives for your applause;
Ah! be not too severe—with gentle hand,
Cherish this scion of your native land,
To *all* your care, his offspring he commends.'

Our author then proceeds to invoke the protection of the fair:

'But chief to you, ye fair he gently sues,
For who will dare to blame, if you refuse?
Be kind then, gild your poet's humble name,
Your smile is victory, your applause is fame!'

As Mr. White must doubtless, feel relieved under any censure, however severe, provided his suit be granted, we shall feel the less reluctance, (since we confess his play is well calculated to inspire the sex with a general sentiment of approbation,) in making such strictures as may have occurred to us during its perusal.

The story may be shortly told. Foscari, a young Venetian, son to the Doge, had been exiled for five years to the island of Candia, as the supposed murderer of Count Donato, the father of Almeria, to whom he is attached; but the council of ten ordered him back to Venice in chains, to answer to another charge preferred against him, at the instigation of Count Erizzo. This charge was no less than his daring to supplicate the Duke of Milan to exert his influence in Venice for his pardon; for to claim protection of any foreign prince was a high offence in a citizen of Venice. The play opens with an animated account of the arrival of Foscari, related to *Valeria*, his mother, who it seems knows nothing of his being expected, or for what purpose he has returned. Valeria, with all a mother's fondness, thinks of a thousand interesting events, and is exceedingly avaricious of intelligence.

'O fate a mother's ears! come, tell her all
That in the least concerns her only son.
The bark! didst thou behold the bark!'

But all this joy is regularly turned into mourning, for the mother immediately begins to forebode something dreadful; she now recollects 'she dreamed a dream last night,' and her soul's prophetick eye sees 'Her Foscari expos'd upon the wheel,' she 'hears him groan,' and sees 'him expire.' The Doge says all he can think of to enliven her thoughts, but her dream prevents his success; this vision contains all the terrors of a German novel, 'lonely cliff, rough-hewn brow, frowning dreadful o'er the deep,' a storm arising; 'the vivid lightning' and 'the muttering roar of heavy thunder told of the tempest near!'

'and the sad Curlew
Join'd her discordant note, to make the scene
More terrible!'

This last is rather an example of the art of sinking: But Valeria proceeds; 'the blast howls, darkness veil'd the face of nature, nothing could be seen but the white-capt billows and the sea-bird;' but that was a mistake, for immediately she

'sees a bark,
Now lift on high, now buried in the deep;'

and then she sees something else,

'A wave bore up an *object* to my view;
And at the moment when the angry surf
Had left the beach, I sprang to save the wretch;'

through the darkness, it seems, she discerned all this;

'It was Foscari! breathless and cold;
I dragged him to the shore.'

The Doge is unable to withstand the tale, and exclaims, "O horrible!" But didst thou not awake at this?" No, Valeria replies, for while she was administering comfort to her reviving son, there rose

'A monster from the sea, of form terrifick,
And saw him from her arms.'

Thus, indeed, she shrieked aloud, and in rather a prosaick line; she tells the consequence:

'And by the exertions which I made, awoke.'

Count Erizzo now comes in to inform the Doge of his son's murder; this man is the lover of Almeria, and rival of Foscari; though he is not known to have been the evil contriver of all the misfortunes which have assailed him. The Doge, however, believes him to be an enemy, and a very malignant one; and we cannot readily discover a motive of policy in the breast of Erizzo, to pay this visit. He acknowledges himself the murderer of *Donato*, in the subsequent scene, because he refused him the hand of Almeria, and by his intrigues, the crime was falsely fixed upon Foscari: this was surely all he wanted, and what end his visit to Foscari's parents could promote, it were perhaps useless to enquire of the author, who *probably had never asked himself*. However, on this visit, the Doge and Erizzo, dispute, and part enraged; Erizzo, then engages a bravo to assassinate the Doge, and watch for Almeria, whom the count supposes is somewhere immured, in consequence of her grief in supposing Foscari to have murdered her father. Now though she had been secluded for five years, yet the *Count* never thought of endeavouring to discover her concealment, until *Foscari* returned. *Foscari* then appears before the council of ten, to answer to his charge; he confesses that he wrote the letter in question, and entrusted it to Policarpo, the assassin, because he knew he would betray him. He only wanted to return to Venice, that he might see his parents; and was willing to encounter, for that pleasure, all the dangers following from the commission of the crime. He is then sentenced to *perpetual* banishment, to the isle of Candia, though he is allowed to see his parents before he goes. They, in the mean time, but the poet does not inform us how, have discovered, that he has been carried before the council, on this new charge: and they enter as soon as Foscari is departed, and solicit for his pardon. But all the father's arguments, and all the mother's tears, fall upon understandings of lead, and hearts of adamant.

To be continued.

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?...Cic.

THE LEGISLATURE.

THE article headed '*The Legislature of Massachusetts*,' in our last number, contained an errour, in point of fact, when it stated that the report of the committee on petitions, passed in the house without op-

position or debate. The mistake arose from false information, received on the day of publication. But yet we hold to the truth of all the rest of the observations contained in the article. That the spirit was greatly deficient in energy, and that every thing is expected from the legislature of this commonwealth, which can reasonably be hoped from talents and wisdom, joined to virtue and principle, is our most firm and unequivocal belief. It is on this spot where we are to look for that systematick, constitutional opposition, which it will be vain to seek elsewhere; the legislature is destined we believe, to rescue our country from destruction; at least, if the nation is to be saved, we think this great result can only be produced by the operation of all the talents, all the resources, all the energy, and all the virtue of Massachusetts.

LIES.

'THE principles of the embargo, and the policy upon which it was entered into, have undergone no change whatever.' *Aurora.*

This is bare-faced enough. The argument of *precaution* is now ended, even by the advocates of the administration in Congress; and surely the *last embargo act* is, to say the least, *an extension of the violation* which the constitution received in the first bill.

'Not a port is open now that was not open twelve months ago.' *Aurora.*

Where are the ports of Portugal and Spain, and all the dependencies of those nations?

'A traitor in the senate house dares to invite a section of the union to *treasonable resistance.*' *Aurora.*

Let the author of this calumny step forward to produce a single proof in justification of so vile an assertion. There is not the slightest shadow of evidence, that any member of the senate has hinted at the propriety of popular resistance to these laws; much less to *treasonable resistance.* And as to the word *traitor*, let it recoil upon the coiner; it does not deserve refutation.

'A faction, a contemptible, pitiful, despicable faction, echoes this treasonable purpose; and the *gold* and the *emissaries* of England are beheld *violating the law.*

2 Their ministers holding out proclamations to violate the law, and proclaiming an indemnity for all who shall violate our laws.

3 Seditious town-meetings are set on foot in different states, and subscriptions are opened to hire *bravos* by the day, to oppose the voice of the people, and to substitute the voice of this *hired mob* for the *voice of the people.*

4 Collectors are prevailed upon to resign their offices.

5 The people are invited to resist the laws.' *Aurora.*

Of these five *lies* it is not necessary to say much; the author knew

them to be such, at the moment he penned them. Where has the *law* been violated, in the peculiar phraseology of the Aurora, 'by the *gold* and *emissaries* of England?' Positively, nowhere: the charge is ridiculous, both in terms and fact.

It is sufficient to say, the ministers of England *do not* proclaim 'an indemnity *for all who should violate our laws*,' but if they did, what has that to do with the embargo policy?

'Seditious town-meetings, *hired bravoes*,' and '*hired mobs*!' Such terms come very ungracefully from the pen of one, who has himself been a hired *bravo*, to assassinate principle and virtue. Though they are consistent enough with his character; for they all come regularly under the *head of the present article*.

We challenge the editor of the Aurora, to produce his instances where any *collectors* have been prevailed upon to resign their offices. The charge is false, and so is the last insinuation, that the people are *invited* to resist the laws.

MISTAKES.

'Perhaps the annals of legislation do not afford an example of a vote so extraordinary, as that of the raising of the embargo, in the house of representatives, on the third instant.' *Aurora.*

There is one exception, at least, to be made to the assertion, and then, we will agree to the fact, though by no means to the conclusions to which it has led the author; we mean the *precipitation* with which the *original* embargo measure was carried through Congress.

'We have never, on great publick questions, suffered individual interest to withhold great and necessary truths.'—*Aurora.* This mistake it is useless to make more plain than it is already.

TRUTHS, *from the same article.*

'In this state of things, so little are these men in congress fitted for their stations, that

All law is forgotten—
National rights are overlooked—
National shame is not considered—'

All this is positively true; which is the more remarkable, as it is discovered in a column of *lies*, *mistakes* and *misrepresentations*, equally numerous, malignant, and shameful.

BON MOT.

A gentleman lately observing some of Mr. Jefferson's *amphibious* animals, the *dismounted* dragoons, employed in rowing the castle barge on 'the full tide of successful experiment,' remarked, that he had often *heard* of a HORSE-MARINE, but never *saw* one before.

THE

ORDEAL.

No. 25] SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 1809. [Vol. I.

MEETING of the FRIENDS to the EMBARGO AND COMPULSION.

Concluded from Page 108.

AFTER Mr. A—— the crier, had closed, the Hon. Mr. K—— called to order; he said there was no motion before the meeting although his friend Mr. A——n had kindly undertaken to second any one which might be made. He said that he was acquainted with no better method in this dilemma, than to make a motion himself. He then took a paper from his pocket containing a string of resolves 'ready cut and dried,' which he begged leave first to read, and then he said he intended to move for their adoption.

'WHEREAS STALL-FED BEASTS, enjoying sense and sensation without sentiment,' are best calculated for food, and the national government for laying the last embargo law is entitled to the *richest* proof of our esteem and support; and WHEREAS this land in consequence of the operation of the laws, is now 'flowing with milk and honey;' and at the 'most stupendous fabrick of human invention,'* 'the natural aspect of the country invites us, in a style superiour,' to support in our most effectual manner, our '*constitution*,' and the 'power of self government;' therefore, Resolved, in the first place, that we, a '*Host* of citizens, from various parts of this commonwealth,' will evince our support to the administration, by dining at the Exchange Hotel, kept by Mr. Hamilton, on the fourth day of March next.

Resolved, that James Madison has been chosen President of the United States [*three times three cheers*] for the four years *next afterwards* ensuing; and that he will pronounce his inaugural address on that day in Washington.

Resolved, that a committee of *ten* be appointed to compose appropriate toasts for the occasion, and that the RESOLUTIONS of the COUNTY OF NORFOLK; the PLYMOUTH REPUBLICAN MEMORIAL, and his honour the LIEUT. GOVERNOR'S *inimitable* SPEECH, be respectfully recommended, to supply them with metaphorical allusions and illustrations. [*tumultuous applause.*]

* We presume the author here alludes to the Exchange Hotel.

Resolved, that a committee be appointed to consult with our brethren of Norfolk, relative to the '*best stall-fed beasts*,' which can be had for the glorious occasion, and that Mr. Hamilton, *as waiter of the Hotel*, shall be one of the committee. [*Applause.*]

Resolved, that the genuine spirit of 76, will then have been exalted to '*its highest proof*;' and that we shall then have made use of every kind of *provision* for the support of our constitution, and exercised all our restrictive energies, in convincing the Federalists that we have the 'power of self government.'

These resolves, sir, said Mr. K——, I hold to be perfectly appropriate, at this here time. By this vote, sir, we convince government, without entering into long arguments which only afford materials of ridicule and refutation to the Federalists, in the most decided terms, that we are pleased with the embargo laws.

1st. Because when men meet together in convivial parties, it is a proof they are *pleased*.

2nd. Because the act of eating is a sure way of putting an end to argument, and *must be quite as convincing* to our rulers, as the *reasonings* of the various memorials, resolves and remonstrances which have been presented to Mr. Jefferson, and the legislature of this state. [*Hear him, hear him!*]

By this vote, I say, sir, said Mr. K——, we declare the embargo laws to be constitutional, necessary and expedient; that our ships are not rotting in our ports; that manufactures and agriculture are the support of the revenue; that the suppression of the publick documents was 'fair open and above board,' that the rejection of the British treaty by Mr. Jefferson, was just and proper; and that there is no partiality in our administration towards France. This vote, sir, declares, that a naval establishment is not congenial to the feelings of this people; that 'an attempt to rival the *oceanick* establishments of Europe, would be ridiculous, and in the first moments of collision the infant fleets of America would be COPENHAGENED by the gigantick armaments of England; [*rapturous expressions of approbation,*] that Great-Britain forces into her service, the *freemen of the world*, and makes them slaves; that the *coercion* of the embargo would have had complete effect, if it were not for our internal dissensions; that we are now a *united* people, and therefore it is soon to have a fair operation; that the Federalists are a *junto* and not Americans; that Mr. A—— has not grown fat; that the office of Mr. B——, is a trouble to him; that Mr. G——, the first merchant in New-England, is not making money by the embargo; [*great applause*] that I. acted with good faith towards Mr. W—— of Wiscasset; that British gold and old tories are the only opposers of government. All this and a great deal more is declared by this vote; every thing which the present administration have done, and every thing which the new president intends to do, will be approved by it.

and every thing which the Federalists do or say is denounced: now, sir, as this is our most effectual weapon of defence, said Mr. K——, depriving our adversaries of the materials for reply, I move you, sir, that the RESOLVES I have just read, may be adopted.

Mr. B—— of Worcester, rose, he said, to speak to the motion; but a young Federalist from one corner of the room, who we suppose went there for no other purpose, than to 'floor and scoff,' asked the chairman, if the motion had been duly seconded, for his part he could not perceive the intention of Mr. A——, to be considered as having seconded any motion which any gentleman might make, was in any respect in order; it might very well, he said, consist with the gentleman's ideas of propriety, but it did not accord with his own. 'Second the motion! second the motion!' immediately resounded from all parts of the meeting; the young man however, so far from being abashed, seemed highly delighted at contemplating the confusion of which he was himself the principal occasion. But he soon repented of his folly, for with a frown the venerable Mr. A—— rose, and remarked that he perceived an intention in some persons in the assembly, [*raising his voice*] whom he supposed to be old tories or British agents, [*thunders of applause*] who had come there with an intention to misinterpret or misrepresent the object of the meeting. The person who was last up, he had no knowledge of; but he was sure *he was no American*, from the opposition which he had made to the customary mode of proceeding, he must therefore be an alien, and deserved to be tarred and feathered, and driven from all *civilized* assemblies. He now perceived, however, that the young man had departed, and he therefore would spare further remark. Mr. B—gs then rose and observed, that as the motion was now regularly before the meeting, he should make a few remarks in favour of adopting the RESOLVES: and he thought if he spoke in favour of the last embargo law, and proved its constitutionality; that he should by that means show the necessity of eating dinner on the fourth of March; since it could not be proper to eat, drink and be merry on that occasion, unless they were satisfied of being right in supporting measures, which it was the avowed purpose of that dinner to approve. He said that he must admit this law did impair *some rights* secured to us by the constitution; but that yet the law was not unconstitutional; for, said he, is not the *elective franchise* still secure? Let our other rights be *invaded* if you please, provided our elective franchise is secure, there is no danger; the constitution is not hurt.* Besides, sir, can any one in this room suppose that a Jefferson, the god of the republicans, would

* We perfectly well recollect hearing the honourable member from Worcester make use of this argument in the house of representatives, and so attached did he appear to it, that he repeated it more than six times, in as many minutes.

injure the constitution? It is disgracing him, sir, to believe it. He may *truly* be called the saviour of his country; [*applause*] for if ever a nation was saved by a law, I believe, said Mr. B——, that the EMBARGO LAW is that law. He had examined the last law he said, but he could not discern how the constitution was particularly injured by it. It destroys our rights, it is said; but, sir, there are many laws of this commonwealth which hurt our rights; 'a man may buy a barrel of rum, sir, but he can't sell it without a licence,' [*loud satisfaction at this argument*] therefore the rights which are injured by the last embargo act have a parallel in our own laws. This, sir, removes one of the constitutional objections to this law, *and I dare say, sir, that the others are just as easily overthrown.** I contend, sir, that the *first* embargo law is just as unconstitutional as the *last*; because Mr. Giles proved in congress that the last contained no new doctrines. And if gentlemen make such violent objections now, why did they not do the same a year ago? [*Loud applause.*] Sir, I glory in the administration; we have now no *gag* law, though I begin to think we ought to have; no *alien* bills, no *land taxes*: we have to be sure a standing army; but then sir, there is no BRITISH TREATY; thank God, sir, we have got rid of *that* scourge. [*Three cheers given at this expression.*] The Federalists made that treaty, and our commerce might have been ruined by it, but, sir, Mr. Jefferson knew better; he would not make a treaty with the perfidious wretches who hold the reins of that government. And what is the consequence? Why, sir, he has irritated them, he has shewn them the American spirit; and though our commerce has been checked for a space, yet, sir, the time may come, when it will flourish more luxuriantly than ever. This is a compendious account of a speech which took up an hour and an half in delivery; but we believe we have faithfully given all the arguments which it contained. Mr. B—— concluded by hoping that the dinner resolves would be adopted. He said that many other things arose to view, but he was obliged to close his observations.

The chairman then put the question, and it passed unanimously. [*Here the audience were in rapture, and they applauded by huzzas, clapping of hands, and throwing up of hats.*] The moderator was about to adjourn the meeting, when the cry of 'grog, give us some grog!' was heard in every part of the room. The heads of the meeting immediately consulted, and at length determined it would be best to let the people have as much as they wanted for the sake of *quietness*. The landlord, therefore, soon furnished them with several *buckets* of '*Brandy Toddy*,' on which they regaled themselves for upwards of an hour; and considering all circumstances it had no very ill effects. The meet-

* The precise reasoning of this member in the house of representatives.

ing was dissolved in great good humour, the people departed in excellent spirits; but the heads of the assembly staid to supper for the purpose of more efficient consultation.

RIGHT *of* SEARCH *for* SEAMEN *in Merchant Ships.*

THE claims of our government on this head, have been broached and adhered to with so much pertinacity, that they have very justly been considered the principal impediment to an adjustment of our differences with Great-Britain, and in truth as the real *origin* of the difficulties, under the weight of which we are now pressed to the last state of endurance. It would be natural to suppose, that amidst all our clamours for redress of the British invasions of the rights of the American flag in merchant ships, that there could not be found on their side the least whisper of any other right but that of power; and indeed Mr. Madison in his letter to Mr. Munroe, of January 5, 1804, seems to entertain this idea. He asserts unequivocally in the outset of his discussion of our rights in this particular; that 'nowhere will she' (Great-Britain)' *find an exception to this freedom of the seas and of neutral flags; which justifies the taking away of any person, not an enemy, in military service, found on board a neutral vessel.*'

This broad assertion, equally destitute of truth and sincerity, we will oppose by the following instance, directly in point:

'Soon after the peace of 1654, a Dutch man of war convoying a fleet of merchant ships, was met by an English man of war in the Downs. The English searched the merchantmen; and the affair was discussed by the States under two heads; the search of ships of war, and the search of merchantmen, the former question appearing to have been suggested by the latter, and the presence of the Dutch man of war. The result of their deliberations was a resolution, that 'the refusal to let merchantmen be searched could not be persisted in;' but respecting the other point, they came to the following determination. 'That, in conformity with their High Mightinesses' instructions, taken in respect to the searching of ships of war, and especially those of September 1627, Nov. 1648, and Dec. 1649, it is thought good, and resolved, that all captains and other sea-officers, that are in the service of this state, or cruising on commission, shall be *anew*, strictly commanded, told, and charged, that they shall not condescend to no commands of any foreigners at sea, much less obey the same; neither shall they any ways permit that they be searched; nor deliver, nor suffer to be taken out of their ships, any *people* or other things.'* (Thurloe. II. 503.)'

* Edinburgh Review, p. 20, No. 21.

Here the Dutch, as expressly as a nation could do, have renounced the principle of the protection of the neutral flags in merchant ships. But it may be said, the decision only referred to *enemies' property or articles contraband of war* and not to *persons*. This idea, however, will be removed, when we consider the *whole* determination of the states, for in the decision in respect to ships of war, they expressly refer to the *object* of the search, and affirm, 'nor suffer to be taken out of their ships any *people* or other things.' The converse of the proposition is equally true according to their own principles, that they could not persist in refusing to 'let *merchant* vessels be searched' for '*people* or other things.'

LIES, MISREPRESENTATIONS, &c.

LIES.

The embargo was laid on to preserve our ships and merchandize; it was also thought by *some* that it might operate as a measure of coercion. It did save our property; but the evasions of the law and the Spanish revolution prevented its effects as a coercive act. *Monitor.*

THE falsehood contained in this quotation, results from the attempt to show that only *some* of the democrats viewed the embargo as a *coercive* measure. Now it is well remembered, that *generally* throughout the country and in congress, the friends of the administration have declared it to be such. Mr. Jefferson, Mr. Giles, Mr. Nicholas, and we believe every democratick paper throughout the United States have maintained the policy of the measure under that idea. Indeed the author of the paragraph was himself, originally, a believer in the coercive branch of the system, since he immediately attributes the *failure* of this part, to evasions of the laws at home, and the revolution in Spain. We have thus refuted this assertion, because we have no intention of suffering the friends of this pernicious policy to shrink from their original ground of defence. If they are allowed to say to-day, that only *some* republicans 'thought it *might* operate as a measure of coercion,' to-morrow they will limit them to a *few*, and afterwards in regular progression, it may be said that *none* ever sincerely believed its efficacy. Thus this most pernicious defence, will be frittered away; and when the people, hereafter, want to discover the authors and defenders of such ridiculous dogmas, for the sake of punishing them as they deserve, they will be unable to penetrate their concealment. It is the right of the people to execute the decisions of justice; it is *ours* to detect the guilty and drag the offenders to the bar of judgment.

'The keeping on the embargo *till we were prepared for war, could only be for a very short time.*' *Monitor.*

Here are two lies directly in the teeth of fact. The government have not made, nor have they undertaken to make any *efficient* preparations for war; any preparations, against either Great-Britain or France that do not disgrace the term, WAR. Where is there *a navy?* or where the *fortifications?* or even an *army* calculated to be of any efficacy against either of those belligerents? The second lie, contained in the above assertion is, that the embargo could remain on 'only a *very short* time.' This very short time, is now upwards of a year; and the object to attain which, this short time only was required, that is, '*till we are prepared for war*' is not *now* effected, nor are we making any rapid strides towards it. But on the other hand, the losses we are every month sustaining by the continuance of the present policy, would, we have no doubt, more than pay for the establishment of six ships of the line.

'The administration designed to raise it, [the embargo] but they did not want to leave the country stark naked, without means of resisting a foreign invading enemy.' *Monitor.*

Does this writer mean to assert that we are *now* in a situation of resisting a foreign invading enemy? If so, then we say the assertion is false. If the reason the administration did not raise the embargo was their not being willing to *leave the country stark naked*, why not prepare for war at the period of *adopting* the measure. The truth is, that 'as the administration have *not* provided means for resisting a foreign enemy, the presumption is they did *not* design to raise it.' What was done in congress at the time the embargo was established, that might be called *preparation* for war? Positively nothing but the raising of 6000 men, a number absolutely ridiculous, when considered as a means of defence against invasion. But not a single additional dollar appropriated for the naval department. The best means of defence, a defence in which all parties would have united, was neglected and despised. So far from truth is the assertion, that *government only wanted time to prepare for war*, that some Federalists who were originally advocates for the embargo policy, on a similar ground, are now and have been for nine months, the most violent opposers of it, since they have not been able to discern in the administration any intention to place the country in a respectable state of defence.

'It is worthy of observation, that not a man who openly advocated the resolutions (of Boston,) has one shilling in the funds which will be hazarded in the controversy.' *Chronicle, Feb. 6.*

This lie it is the more necessary to expose, as it is made with such unblushing effrontery. The piece from which the extract was taken,

was probably the production of a gentleman in office, and we suppose he means by the expression, 'openly advocate,' that no person who *spoke* in favour of the resolutions, had any property in the funds. Now this is evidently not the apparent intention of the paragraph; it manifestly endeavours to convey, substantially, the idea that the advocates of the resolutions were destitute of any interest in maintaining the credit of government stock; than which no assertion was ever more scandalously false. Conceding, however, the most rigid meaning of the expression 'openly advocated,' we still say that there could not be a more 'open' avowal of a man's principles than an *open* vote, before the body of his fellow citizens. But to deprive the Loan Officer, or the author of the paragraph, of any excuse for the assertion, we now affirm that it is *not true* that '*not a man* who *spoke* in favour of the resolutions had a shilling in the funds.' We know to the contrary; and if necessary it can be established by legal testimony.

Such lies as these circulate in the country undisputed; and the Federalists by suffering them to remain unanswered, really commit a negative crime on the morals of the community.

'While *three thousand seamen* are held in bondage by Britain.'
Chronicle, Feb. 6.

'The conduct of Great-Britain, in the impressment of our seamen, adds a deeper die to the injuries inflicted upon us by her. Thousands of our seamen are confined on board her ships of war. *Chronicle, Feb. 16.*

This is an assertion generally circulated, and all the democratick papers echo it with exultation. But we think it comes very ungracefully from the advocates of the embargo system, which has *driven our seamen into* this very bondage of which we hear such pathetick complaints. The fact is, that those American seamen who are now forcibly detained in the English service, will unquestionably be discharged, on a proper application made for them. And as to such as enlist *voluntarily* we cannot complain of the British, but our own government. We venture to say without risk of contradiction, that there are not *three hundred* American seamen held in *bondage*, or against their inclination in the British service, at this moment; and that those can have their discharge when properly claimed. According to Mr. Madison's letter to Mr. Munroe, on *the subject* of impressment, dated 5th January, 1804, it appears that out of 2,056 cases of impressed seamen of *all* nations, between the month of June, 1797, and September, 1801, for whom claims were preferred, that 1142 WERE DISCHARGED; 102 were *British* seamen, and 805 were left for further proof.

In his letter of instructions to Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, dated May 17, 1806, the Secretary of State alludes to the letter just referred to 'as being still applicable to a great proportion of the matter now committed to their joint negociations.' We may hence conclude that

the evil is by no means so dreadful as is generally supposed, particularly when it is considered that the British ministers assured Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, Nov. 7, 1806, that 'their government gave at that time no cause of offence to the United States by impressments, and that the American ministers might be satisfied, it would continue to pursue the same policy;' and in an official note presented by Lords Holland and Aukland, they give Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney the most positive assurances that '*instructions have been given** and shall be repeated and enforced, for the observance of the greatest caution in the impressing of British seamen; and that the strictest care shall be taken to preserve the citizens of the United States from any molestation or injury; that immediate and prompt redress shall be afforded upon any representation of injury sustained by them.' Mr. Madison, in his note of Feb. 3, 1807, resorts to equivocation in endeavouring to remove the assertion 'that no recent causes of complaint had taken place' in respect to this subject; he roundly asserts, without the least *proof*, that impressments never were more numerous, and 'however the language of Mr. Lyman's book's may countenance this errour,' the secretary can not say, but he undertakes to assert that 'he thinks it *probable even there*,' that 'the means of correcting it may be found.' Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney accorded in sentiment with the British ministry; and since the Chesapeak disaster, which unfortunately occurred soon after the above official communications, we have heard of no instances of *impressments* of American seamen: but on the contrary, many such sailors have been discharged from the British service.

CALUMNIES.

'The real object of this party is to separate the United States, and excite *Rebellion and Civil War*, for the purpose of establishing a *Monarchy*, under the pretence of a Northern confederacy, or to force us into a destructive war with the continent of Europe, consequently a fatal alliance with the corrupted monarchy of Britain,' whose embrace is death.'' *Chronicle, Feb.* 16.

It is almost useless to refute this calumny. The object of the Federalists has always been to *maintain* the laws and the constitution; that of the democrats to evade both. The embargo laws were either constitutional or not; if not, the Federalists are supported by the constitution in endeavouring to obtain legal redress. Laws which are unconstitutional are not binding; and the legislature have declared these laws to be thus invalid. But there never has been known *any thing like a northern confederacy*, to force government into a war with France; though there are many wise politicians who consider the measure highly just and expedient. Yet such assertions spread as widely as if they

* Such orders were issued about this time.

were true; and too often remain uncontradicted, under the vain hope that they would carry their refutation in their absurdity. But it is too late to indulge such fancies; when we observe grave senators in congress, yet advocate the EMBARGO policy on the ground of PRECAUTION, though its operation is precicely the reverse, we must no longer conceive any intimation too absurd for systematick refutation.

CONTRADICTION.

'If the *minority* must rule the majority, there is an end of the constitution.'
Chronicle.

This is a republican impossibility; but if applied to the State government, where is democratick *modesty?* The majority cannot be ruled, the moment what *was* the majority becomes *ruled* it is no longer such; because it must be overpowered by counteracting *votes*. There is no such thing therefore as a majority being *ruled* by the minority, or the constitution being ended in consequence. The constitution however *can* be ended, by other means. If our unalienable, inherent rights are destroyed, the constitution is ended; and if COMMERCE is annihilated, so far as the provisions of the constitution which were made for its protection are rendered nugatory, it is ended.

MISREPRESENTATION.

'Men may very honestly differ on these points; but there never would have been any difficulty at all if it had not been for the contrivances of the Essex Junto.' *Monitor.*

So much for veracity. The Essex Junto we should imagine would be infinitely obliged to the editor of the Monitor, to particularize the contrivances which have had such a wonderful effect. It is well known the Essex Junto *oppose* the difficulties, which it seems have been occasioned by their own contrivances, so that they must have been very shallow brained politicians. Now, such men as have occasioned so much distress, whose plans existed before we had met with any disaster, and who have so fully succeeded in their designs, cannot be very foolish in their schemes, however they may be wicked.

DEMOCRACY, vs. DEMOCRACY.

'Resolved, that the real causes of our present embarrasments are not the embargo, or any measures of our own government, but are *wholly* owing to the unjust and oppressive conduct of Great-Britain and France.'
Chronicle, Feb. 16.

ANSWER.

'The evils which we as a people do this moment experience, are in some measure owing to the publick and private machinations of our domestick enemies.' *Chronicle, Feb.* 16.

'But there never would have been any difficulty at all if it had not been for the contrivances of the Essex Junto.' *Monitor.*

THE STAGE.

Next came the legion, which our *winter* Bayes
From alleys here and there contriv'd to raise;
Projecting schemes the dreary months to cheer,
And with wild folly tire the listening ear.

WE are generally willing to allow the propriety of scrutiny on the performances of the stage; but do not deem it incumbent on us to take up much room in descanting on the merits of the *complaints* of managers, or the personal *conduct* of performers. As far, however, as the publick is evidently connected with such enquiries, we are ready to permit any remarks to be published, which can have a tendency to remedy the evils complained of: but our correspondent ALPHA, who is so much incensed at the behaviour and situation of certain performers on Mr. Bernard's benefit night, and has communicated his very severe and caustick remarks for publication, is respectfully informed that the length of his piece far exceeds any limits which we can reasonably assign to a subject so notoriously *stale* in fact, and which would be so *unprofitable* to discuss. There are some of his observations, however, not undeserving of regard.

ALPHA, it seems, is fond of the theatre, but had been prevented by sickness from attending any performance, until particularly induced by the attraction of Mr. Bernard's benefit; he complains bitterly of his disappointment. He says he had heard that the managers had made many complaints of the times, which prevented their receiving any encouragement from the publick; he had sympathized with them in their misfortunes; but *now* the opinion of ALPHA is, that they must have received infinitely greater support than they had any right or pretension to expect. 'For,' says he, 'if such actors as Messrs. Taylor, Johnson, Robertson, Barnes, Morgan and Vining are cast to some of the most important characters in the scene; if Mr. Caulfield is allowed repeatedly to offend, indeed to insult the audience, as he did on Wednesday evening; if during the whole season, there has hardly been performed an excellent or legitimate comedy;' but some ill-digested and miserably written productions, as the Blind Girl, the World, Begone Dull Care, the Wood Dæmon, and The Pilgrims have been forced upon the publick to tire their patience and pervert their taste, it is utterly ridiculous to make complaints so entirely destitute of any stability for a foundation.' He complains that Mr. Bernard should have treated his friends on his benefit night with a production of Dibdin, which had nothing but musick to recommend it. But even that could not save it in London, and it was generally condemned, as being perfectly flat and uninteresting, and as possessing neither wit in dialogue, truth in character, nor ingenuity in plot.

It is the cause of frequent observation, too, he further remarks, that the principal business of the season has been confined to Messrs. Bernard, Dickenson, Mills, and Mrs. Woodham; the two latter of whom have been unfairly treated, as to their professional reputation. They have been so often required to take principal parts almost at a moment's warning; to play every night during the season, and not uncommonly in the longest characters, both in play and farce, that they have seldom had an opportunity to impress the *words* upon their memory, much less to give life, soul and vigour in the utterance, to the sentiment and expression.

MR. FENNELL'S READINGS.

ANOTHER correspondent complains of Mr. Fennell's bills of fare: which he says remind him of the epicure, who dined on *pork and beans* one day, and *beans and pork* the next. Mr. Fennell gives us *John Gilpin* and the *Maid of the Moor* one evening, and the *Maid of the Moor* and *John Gilpin* the next. It would certainly be an improvement in the present course, to have the same pieces in the *same order*, *every* evening. This method would save the printers much trouble, as there would be no occasion for displacing their types; and the audience, as they would not then *expect* any thing *new*, would not be disappointed (as they must be at present) in *finding* nothing new.

The pages of Shakespeare, Milton, Young, Brooke, Thomson, and others, contain an inexhaustible variety of passages excellently adapted to publick reading. The Iliad and Odyssey, Ossian, Madock, Marmion, &c. afford episodes of exquisite beauty, and susceptible of the highest improvement from a forcible and judicious reader. With such resources, a repetition of the same pieces, when they are not to be committed to memory, is certainly unnecessary.

Is Mr. Fennell insensible that he possesses no talents for comedy, or light satire? and that they cannot be supplied by critical study? It is true, he might be successful in speaking the Satire of Juvenal; and he is not deficient in the 'description of a fop:' but this species of composition partakes of all the qualities of heroick poetry; indignation, contempt, anger, are passions, which though found in comedy and satire, are entirely distinct from humour. We therefore think, that the introduction of humorous compositions into Mr. Fennell's reading, is a custom which would be 'more honoured in the breach than the observance.'

ADVERTISEMENTS.

☞ CARD.

THE beautiful young lady, who unfortunately slipped down upon the ice, and dropped her garter in the Mall, last Wednesday, is desired not to make herself uneasy, as the gentleman, who witnessed the fact and picked up the garter, is upwards of fifty, and most religiously promises that the *exposure* shall go no further.

FOUND

Out, by the administration, that the British are not to be frightened by the embargo, and that the Orders of Council will still continue, until our temper be changed.

WANTS,

ARGUMENT, Mr Giles's Speech;
VIRTUE and WISDOM, Mr. Jefferson's administration;
MEANING, Honestus' essays in the Chronicle;
WIT, the Journal of an English traveller in the Monthly Anthology;
LIBERALITY, the Panoplist; and,
ENCOURAGEMENT, *most new publications.*

THE THEATRE,

This season, has a great many wants. The PLAYS want *attraction*, the ACTORS want *talents*, the MANAGERS want *liberality*, and the PUBLICK want *discrimination.*

NOTICE.

If the writer of certain paragraphs in certain papers, who, according to his opinion, is possessed of the very *first talents* in the country, and is eminently well calculated to guide the chariot of Phœbus, is now in want of employ, we shall be happy to publish some of his lucubrations, provided his meaning be rendered more evident, by numerous Italick phrases and capitals, and provided his wit shall depend upon the *printer*, as well as himself.

THINGS TAKEN.

The ENGLISH NAVY have taken *nothing*, because there is nothing to take;
The FRENCH have taken *Madrid*;
The UNITED STATES ARMY have taken *cotton-wool*;
CONGRESS have taken *time*;
The LEGISLATURE OF MASSACHUSETTS have taken good *council*,
And the LIEUT. GOVERNOUR has taken *umbrage.*

LOST

In Federal-street, near the Theatre, a bundle of love-letters, some beginning, *My dere letel angel*, others, *my sweet Mary*, and others, *my love;* they are written in various hands, from various lovers, to one lady, and whoever has found and will return them to Cambridge College, shall receive a satisfactory reward.

MISSING,

Supposed to be stolen, the modesty of Miss S——. It is presumed to be in the possession of some *vulgar* female, or perhaps *quaker*, as the former owner has enquired of all *her* female acquaintances respecting it, who deny having any knowledge of the article; and indeed she confesses she cannot discover any traces of it among them; but as the commodity is now very *scarce*, and Miss S—— is anxious to recover what she has lost, she hereby offers her most heart-felt thanks to any person who will direct her the way to obtain it again. She offers the above reward for the *modesty without the thief;* but if the purloiner can be discovered, she will be willing to afford additional remuneration.

FAST DAY.

IT is curious to mark the distinctions which always exist between sincerity and hypocrisy, they both have virtue on the exteriour, but the garb of one is torn, and you can discover the hypocrite through the tatters, while the other is whole and free from disguise. We think we can discover in the Lieut. Governour's letter to the senate and house of representatives, many of these peep holes, and through them the deceiver which it is intended to conceal. The meaning of his Honour is enveloped in an obsourity of expression, which the light of understanding which he undoubtedly intended should enlighten it, is hardly sufficient to dispel it.

He remarks that 'from an anxiety at learning yesterday, that Mrs. Lincoln was very sick,' he should not accept the invitation of the legislature to attend publick worship on the day they had appointed for a Fast. His honour then takes occasion to observe that as 'the spirit of the times might mistake a non-acceptance of the invitation, for a *proof of infidelity*,' he confesses 'a belief in the christian system.' He then proceeds with an intimation that the *Fast* may have a bad effect on the community, by inducing the people (but by no means hinting an application to the legislature) for party purposes, to get up conventions in the country under the *name of Fasts*, for the purpose of creating uneasiness, jealousy and insubordination in respect to their rulers.

The first idea which struck us upon the perusal of this singular letter was, his Honour's quickness to suspect that he might be suspected of infidelity. He then, like a true hypocrite, proceeds to *profess*, but refuses to act. His professions are such, however, as leave very little doubt on the mind of any person possessed of common understanding, that they are only plausible covers of his real opinion, and can be removed at pleasure. His Honour's belief in the *christian system* may mean no more, than that it is a good political measure to maintain such a system, but is in fact no declaration of a sincere belief in the essential doctrines of christianity. But even if it were the case, why take for granted that the people would suppose his non-acceptance of the invitation '*a proof* of infidelity?' was not his *ostensible excuse sincere*? or did he think it was not sufficient? Had he not declared his belief of the *christian system* at his inauguration, as a fundamental requisite for his qualification, and that too, under all the solemnity of an oath? But we beg pardon, he well knew the hypocrisy which had disgraced *other* inaugurations, and might reasonably conclude the people could place no reliance on similar professions of belief; and as to an oath, we know its bond is loosened and dissolved by the breath of infidelity.

But after all, if the excuse which his Honour assigned was sufficient to authorize his non-acceptance of the invitation; and if the occasion was too solemn to admit the operation of party feelings; then the letter of his Honour is *really* chargeable with the same crime which he only *presumes* the publick may be guilty of; because he employs it for party purposes at the very time when he is engaged in a concern, which he deems of more importance, than publickly to worship God.

The whole of this letter indicates uncommon hypocrisy, and an intolerance of party asperity; and daily experience is affording us abundant proof of the validity of the assertion.

UNCONSTITUTIONAL CONDUCT OF LIEUTENANT GOVERNOUR LINCOLN.

THE crimes of the general government are so alarming, that the people view the conduct of inferiour officers with indifference or contempt; but the Romans were in as much danger from the *horse* of Caligula, which was elevated to the first office in the state, as from the tyrant himself. What terms of reproach are strong enough to represent the last attempt of the Lieut. Governour to control the people, by a military force, at the hazard of violating the constitution and the laws of the land? What colours are dark enough for representing his image? what masterly hand shall we find to give the characteristick touches?

Here is an instance of flagrant injustice which does not require the aid of exposition. Is there any tool of the administration profligate enough to deny that the late conduct of the Lieut. Governour, in giving orders to the military was unconstitutional? His giving orders at any rate, at the instigation of the Secretary at war, was contrary to law; the manner in which he *directed* them betrayed the guilt of his intention, and confirms his own conviction of the crime; and the secrecy, with which the whole business was conducted, blackens his character with a stain so infamously indelible, that all the waters of Lethe cannot eradicate or weaken it.

The most arbitrary governments suffer the administration of the laws to take its regular course; if the rights of the people are invaded by their provisions, no new rights are overthrown by the execution of them. But the Lieut. Governour of a republican state improves upon the most tyrannical doctrines; as if to confound our revenge by multiplying crimes. In his opinion the military shall not only control the civil power, which is one breach of the constitution; but shall be made to control it by secret orders, and on no sufficient authority, which is another. We are happy to observe the spirited RESOLVE of the committee of the house of representatives, on the subject; and we hope the charge may hereafter be made an article of impeachment against Governour Lincoln: we publish the resolve for the honour of American spirit, the honour of the committee for reporting, and the house for adopting it; and for the purpose of extending, in some small degree, the disgrace of the executive, and make the impression perpetual.

'Resolved, That in the opinion of this house, the said military orders of the first of Feb. inst. issued by his honour LEVI LINCOLN, Esq. Lieutenant Governour and Commander in Chief of this Commonwealth, are irregular, illegal and inconsistent with the principles of the constitution; tending to the destruction of military discipline, an infringement of the rights, and derogatory to the honour of both officers and soldiers; subversive of the military system, and highly dangerous to the liberties of the people.

All which is respectfully submitted.

ISAAC MALTBY, per order.'

THEATRICAL JUDGMENT.

Supposed to have been written by an unsuccessful author.

MAY I approach unto the boxes, pray,
And there search out a judgment on the play?
In vain, alas! should I attempt to find it;
Fair ladies SEE a play, but never MIND it.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 9.] SATURDAY, MARCH 4, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICAL.

" Hear and judge:—The Cortes those ancient sureties of our freedom, will " be re-established, more powerful and better constituted than they had ev- " er been: they shall be assembled every three years, and as often as the " wants of the nation shall make their assembling necessary. The yearly " expenditure of the royal establishment shall be limited; the sum taken " out of the royal treasury for that purpose shall never be increased; it shall " only be the half of what has hitherto been appropriated to the same pur- " pose. The Roman catholick religion shall be exclusively that of Spain; " no other worship shall be permitted. Add to this, that useful reforms will " be gradually made in all the departments, publick credit shall be restored, " the debt shall be fixed, and paid off in a few years. The adminstration of " justice shall be made certain by invariable rules. The sovereign authority " shall not be permitted to influence its course."—*Proclamation by the Superiour Junta of the Government.*

THE SPANISH CAUSE.

EVERY report from the seat of war in Spain has so evident an effect on the publick mind, and the cause is in truth so interesting in its issue to the prosperity of these states, that any enquiry into the state of present circumstances in that country, will naturally excite attention, however desponding, or however encouraging may be the conclusions, to which a fair examination of probabilities may conduct us. The glorious cause in which the people of Spain are engaged, has kindled the flame of sympathy in every breast throughout Europe. And those persons whose habit is to think as their passions incline them, rather than to reason from the convictions of experience, have long ago driven Bonaparte and his legions behind the Pyrennees, to hide himself from shame, disgrace and discomfiture. When a *whole people*, it was said, shall rise in arms, their force will be irresistible. The French will then be obliged to encounter such enemies as they never yet met in the field, and before whose personal intrepidity, strength and courage the numbers and discipline of their own armies must ultimately give way. It was acknowledged on all hands, that Bonaparte had evidently committed a palpable mistake in his estimate of the Spanish character. Expecting to find them a race sunk so low in degradation, that they would submit to any change of masters without a struggle; and to any pro-

titution to which he might choose to destine them, he found them to his cost an adversary too proud to be commanded, and it is sincerely to be wished, too formidable to be subdued. He aimed at the Castilian honour a blow, which was returned with spirit. But these conclusions were too sanguine and ill drawn to be all true. Bonaparte, to be beaten from his purpose, will take a great many hard blows; and it remains to be seen, whether the Castilian spirit will evaporate, or continue with unabated strength.

The means required to resist the appalling power of the French nation at this time must be formidable indeed. It demands a kind of revolutionary energy to attain the object. Talents, and those of the very highest order, which the occasion must naturally call forth to view, should be sought with avidity, and the command of the armies be confided to men of real ability, and not to any of the impotent adherents of the corruption of the old court This revolutionary spirit promed well in the first instance: the addresses of the juntas breathed nothing but this energy. They called on the people to restore to the nation *its ancient freedom and original constitution*, they impressed upon their minds the futility of depending upon hasty levies of troops. 'Think you,' said these statesmen, 'that a tumultuous levy of brave inhabitants, without military skill, without chiefs, without money, without magazines, will be able to withstand experienced armies and soldiers grown old in the habits of victory?' They then recommended the true policy 'of avoiding all general engagements,' of making a partizan war upon the French, embarrassing and wasting their armies by cutting off their supplies of provisions, destroying bridges, &c. which kind of hostility the natural situation of Spain, rendered highly probable would be prosecuted with the greatest success. They particularly said, 'it is indispensable that each province should have *its general of known talents*, as much experience as our situation permits.' The affairs of the patriots, from the energy, and at the same time the circumspection with which they were governed, under all the aspects in which they were viewed, afforded prospects of a successful termination. Still however, no action of equal numbers had absolutely occurred; but the French were driven from the country in all directions, by multitudes of armed peasantry. Yet from the difficulties which the patriots experienced in subduing such detachments of the French armies as were spread about the country, it was reasoned that when Bonaparte, at the head of his forces should arrive in Spain, that success which over the small bodies of troops had been oftentimes retarded, would be no longer attainable. It was always hoped that the patriotism of the times would not be disheartened by any temporary successes of the enemy, (for the appearance of new and inexperienced levies before veterans almost always terminates in defeat) but that the disasters of the Spanish would afford them lessons of wisdom and teach them to profit by their first errours, so that at last they might be able to make an efficient stand. Experience

had convinced most thinking men, that the popular indignation would soon subside, unless it were constantly excited. The height of rage was therefore the proper time to secure a permanent force, by proper enlistments, and the introduction of a system of discipline which might be permanently useful. The American revolution had afforded abundant proofs of the want of efficacy in a militia inlisted for only a year, when they were allowed to return home; it was therefore hoped that the Spaniards would contrive to raise a large army which should be durable, and be placed under the direction of such faithful officers as might hereafter insure success, even against such troops as Napoleon could bring into the field. The regulations of the Supréme Juntas were in some respects well calculated to effect so desirable an end; they required the services of all citizens without regard to rank; but there may exist some doubt of the excellence of the system on which they were enlisted. The services of all the male inhabitants from the age of *sixteen to forty-five*, were put in requisition for the army. They were divided into three classes: the first class were all volunteers who chose to enlist, and they held themselves ready to march at a moment's call: the second class consisted of unmarried persons and married men and widowers *without* children; these were to be called upon when their services should be required: the third class, composed of married men and widowers *with* children, were only to be required to attend the army in the last resort, when it should become necessary to sacrifice their lives to save their country. Of these three classes, the first was called into immediate service; they were *volunteers*, stimulated by their patriotism, ambition and courage, and probably the flower of the Spanish people. As they were not selected from any particular rank in life, it is somewhat an interesting subject of enquiry to ascertain their comparative excellence to French veterans, when brought into competition.

The great perfection of a military system consists in the prompt and complete submission to superiour orders; not merely review submission, but an obedience which shall induce the soldier to lay down his life at the command of his officer, to encounter every peril and disaster without impatience and without repining. The ardour and enthusiasm of the new levies would undoubtedly carry them a great way in this mode of obedience; but the pride of the Castilian could ill brook the intolerant rigour of a petty disciplinarian, probably placed over him on account of his greater capacity, but inferiour to him in rank. The heart-burnings and jealousies which are the natural effects of the new system, would more than any thing tend to subvert that quietness and strictness of subordination, which is absolutely necessary to complete the soldier for service. We are fearful that the powers of the Supreme Junta may not be sufficient to curb the licentiousness to which this spirit will naturally incline; their proclamations often seem to be in the style of *invitation* rather than of *irresistible authority*.

Our belief therefore, was that the Spaniards would not only be beaten at first, but they would be obliged to fight hard afterwards to extinguish the fire of insubordination that is always generated in new levies, unless they are rigorously watched. If a few defeats do not damp their ardour in the cause, though the immediate effects may seem disastrous, the permanent effect will be favourable. It will teach the superiour officers where to look for the best soldiers, and who it is most advisable to promote; it will serve to 'vent the musty superfluity,' of the times; and bring the precious gems to the light, which had been surrounded and hidden by mean and earthly incrustations.

On the other hand, the *cause* in which they are engaged, presents a permanent *motive* for unremitted exertions; and it will probably keep up a constant stimulus to their bravery. If it does, though Napoleon should march to Madrid and crown his brother Joseph there, still hope would not languish; the Spanish nation would rise behind them after they had passed, and recover their original strength, as a plant which has been trodden down is restored to its former elevation, by means of its natural elasticity. The first battles which have occurred since the entrance of Napoleon into Spain, are by no means so disheartening as might have reasonably been supposed; he has proceeded towards Madrid, and what else could be expected? The policy which the Supreme Junta very wisely prescribe to their generals is by all means to avoid a general engagement. A partizan warfare will *impede* but cannot *stop* the progress of the enemy. Let Joseph be crowned at Madrid. What then? Are the Spaniards of necessity conquered? By no means. All the losses they at present have sustained, are very inconsiderable; and they have met with some success. It does not appear that the *second class of the Spanish people are yet called out.* Let us consider for a moment the extent of the French successes.

The advantages they have gained are evidently exaggerated. The left wing of the Spanish army under General Blake, which has generally been considered completely destroyed, to judge even from the French accounts is by no means in so desperate a condition. It appears the French having received great reinforcements under Marshal Le Febre, the Duke of Dantzick, he joined the division of General Merlin, and attacked Blake on the 31st of October, who was posted at Sonorsa, near Bilboa. The Spanish army, the French accounts assert, amounted to 30,000, the truth is probably less; but at all events, the French were much superiour in point of numbers. After fighting the whole day, the Spaniards abandoned their positions, for fear of being cut off: they displayed great bravery during the action, and they retreated in such order, that General Blake formed a junction of all the corps which had been engaged, and marched them to the heights of Bilboa, stopping on the road to rest for the space of two hours. All the Spanish troops were not engaged in this affair; and Blake, leaving Bilboa un-

der the command of D. Nicholas Mahy, marechel de camp, took a new position at Valmaseda. The numbers of the French became so great that Blake saw the necessity of 're-concentrating' his forces, and gave orders to unite the different divisions; they all effected a junction, excepting the second division of the army of Galicia, which had not been previously engaged. In the mean time he had ordered Bilboa to be evacuated, and the Duke of Dantzick, entered it in the evening of the 1st of November. The loss which either the Spaniards or French sustained in the affair of the 31st was very inconsiderable, and the French bulletin admits 'they took very few prisoners.'

The second division of the army of Galicia, (which could not form a junction with the main army stationed at Guenes,) under the command of Don Vincent Acevedo, was attacked on the 3d of November, and repulsed the enemy. The defeat was not decisive; for the French still maintained a position between Acevedo's corps and the main army; which circumstance induced Blake to make a decisive movement against them. He accordingly divided his army into four divisions; the third commanded by Brigadier D. Francisco Rigueime, was destined to attack the intercepting corps of the French; the fourth marched to Valmaseda, for the purpose of attacking whatever troops they might meet; the first and reserve under the immediate command of Blake, were to proceed to Gordejuela, to cut off the communications between the different French divisions; and the corps of the north remained, as a general reserve. But the French drew off their forces, suffered Acevedo to take an advantageous position, and retreated precipitately. The fourth division of Blake's army, encountered a body of 7,000 of the enemy, at Valmaseda, under the command of the French General Vallet, drove them out of the town and pursued them upwards of a league, took some prisoners and much booty. On the 7th of November, Blake met with a body of French, amounting to 8,000 men, a firing commenced which lasted through the day, when the French fell back; but no material advantage was gained on either side. Blake made a movement from right to left with an intention of attacking them in a new direction; but the inclemency of the night, and the fatigue of the troops induced him to retire to his head quarters at Valmaseda, before day break. The French accounts are completely enveloped in mystery respecting these affairs; all they say is, that had they occurred on the plains instead of on the heights, not a Spaniard would have escaped; they mention no losses sustained on their part, but they think the Spaniards must have experienced a loss of from 3800 to 4,000 men.

After these events, Blake posted himself, November 10, at Espinosa, according to the French statement, in a very formidable position. The resistance which the Spaniards had made in the affair of Guenes, had called the reinforcements of Marshals Belluno, and Dalmatia from

Orduna and Burgos to the assistance of the Duke of Dantzick. At 3 o'clock in the afternoon Blake's army was attacked by Belluno, and Romano was dislodged from a post which he had taken. Both armies fought until night; and both maintained their positions. At break of day the attack re-commenced, the right of the French was commanded by Le Febre, the left by Victor and the centre by General Maison; while Soult marched towards Reynosa in order to intercept the retreat of the Spaniards. Blake, who had for twelve days been contesting with a superiour force, was now obliged to retreat precipitately. The French say, he abandoned his arms, colours and artillery. But they do not pretend to enumerate the loss which the Spaniards sustained in this action separately considered; they mingle it with the affair which the centre of the Spanish army had had at *Palencia*, near *Burgos*, in which the patriots made no stand; in *both* actions it is stated by the French, that the Spanish loss was 60 pieces of cannon, and 20,000 men killed, wounded and taken prisoners; but as they resort to the artifice of combining the two actions, in order to swell the patriot loss, *particularly as the action at Palencia had been detailed in a previous Bulletin*, we may reasonably conclude, that the French statement, but more especially our fear, has greatly exaggerated the disasters which General Blake has experienced.

These conclusions will be rendered more probable when we consider the little progress which the French have made beyond Espinosa, after the pretended overthrow of Blake. Soult, the Duke of Dalmatia, who had marched in the certainty of intercepting Blake's retreat, so far from accomplishing his object, was at *St. Andero* the next day after the engagement, which is on this side of the scene of action; and the greatest progress, which any of their corps had made in pursuit of the Spaniards, is just within the borders of the province of Asturias; and we have since understood that Blake had taken post at *Villa Vioca*, not very far distant from this spot. The Madrid Gazette, as late as the 29th November, does not mention the defeat of Blake, though the retreat of *Frias*, after the battle of *Burgos and Palentia*, is expressly noticed. The Spaniards at that time were in excellent spirits; they seemed to have expected some reverses; they bore up stoutly against them, and it now remains to be seen, whether after the palpable errours which Castanos and Palafox committed at Tudella, they are still resolute in their hopes, and sanguine of the ultimate success of the struggle. As to Blake our hopes must not wholly sink in despondency; he has proved himself an excellent General, the dispositions of his army the French themselves acknowledge to have been masterly, and from the uncommon caution with which the bulletins are worded, in relation to the operations against him, it is evident they yet consider him a formidable opponent, although they pretend to have caused him to seek his personal safety by flight, and to have completely destroyed his

army. In examining the bulletins it appears as if Blake's army had been completely destroyed *twice* at least, before the battle of Espinosa: but yet at *that time* it seems the struggle was more violent, and the battle longer contested than any one which has occurred since the commencement of hostilities.

CONTROVERSY.

THE editors of the Ordeal have received the following communication from a correspondent, and were doubtful at first of the propriety of publishing it, on account of its being too late to discuss the subject, and of its tendency to excite controversy. But frequency of importunity has at length overcome, or at least overruled their scruples. They take leave however, to observe, that they have on the whole, about as indifferent an opinion of the Pilgrims as the writer in the Repertory, though perhaps on other grounds. EDITORS.

THE PILGRIMS.

Messrs. Editors,

I AM so far from being an enemy to Theatrical Criticisms in general, that I have sometimes dabbled in them myself; but it is my opinion, that while they should always be dictated by a spirit of fair dealing towards the author, even in the most severe animadversions, they should most especially exhibit an apparent intention to benefit the taste of the publick. In reading some remarks on the unfortunate production of *The Pilgrims*, published in the Repertory of Friday, Feb. 24th, I was particularly struck with their want of candour, and their utter destitution of critical knowledge. Some lines in Pope's introduction to the Essay on Criticism, may very fairly be applied to the writer of that communication:

> 'Tis hard to say, if greater want of skill
> Appear in writing or *in judging ill;*
> For of the two, less dang'rous is th' offence,
> To tire our patience *than mislead our sense.*'

I confess myself, sir, a friend to American plays: I am fond of seeing them encouraged. I do not pretend to be acquainted with the author of the Pilgrims, nor even to know *who* he is. I give no credence to common report, for I am sure the gentleman who has the credit of being the author, is far superiour to a composition so generally derided. Yet though I do not pretend to admire the production, I do say that the remarks of the Repertory *fault-finder*, might apply to many other plays as well as the Pilgrims.

Thus for example, we are told 'that this actor was really not calculated to *represent the person* of Gov. Carver in any respect whatever.' If this writer expects that every historical personage is to be represented by an actor *resembling him in person*, it is highly unreasonable. Al-

exander the great, was known to have been rather small in stature; but from the custom of the stage the part has been generally appropriated to large sized actors; because, for *heroick tragedy* such persons are best adapted. Garrick renounced Othello because he was *too small* to give effect to the part. It is not reasonably to be expected, therefore, according to the custom of the stage, that the persons of actors should have any peculiar resemblance to the characters they perform. The charge of the neglect of costume however, has more foundation; but the author knows very little of *our* stage, if he expected to find a strict conformity in this particular, to the fashion of the year 1620. Besides, the audience would have been convulsed with laughter to have seen *our mothers* represented by young women, dressed in *long waists, wide sleeves and ruffs*. The custom has always been to allow the *ladies* to dress in a modern costume in any comedy; so that the Mrs. Fainwould of Congreve, and the Lady Teazle of Sheridan, may appear without impropriety in a similar habit. That this errour should not be suffered is indeed true, much less should the *variety* of costume, which every player exhibits, be allowed; but the ladies will not be laughed at, and cannot be controled.

Our author suggests as a wonder, that the Indians should speak the English language; this is all very true; but I should be glad to know what language he would substitute? If the Indians are to be brought upon the scene, it is necessary that they should have some evident means of conveying their ideas. If this were effected by signs, the play would of necessity be tedious and uninteresting. The only proper way then, is to introduce their thoughts in such English, as might convey the supposed literal meaning of the Indian expressions. Besides the practice of the author of the Pilgrims is in this respect conformable to that of the best English dramatists. It is an argument of *necessity* that characters of all nations should speak English. Thus Greeks, Romans, Egyptians, Spaniards, French, Germans, &c. are introduced on the stage, speaking our language, at a time before the English nation was known. I apply a case still more strongly in point; there are PIZARRO and COLUMBUS, one adapted to our stage by Sheridan, and the other written by Moreton, in which the natives of America are introduced, speaking the English language. It is as unreasonable to object to this circumstance, as to say that *aside speeches* should not be spoken loud enough to be over-heard by the other characters on the stage with the person who utters it; when it is evident by such a lowness of voice, the very end of uttering the speech would be lost, since the *audience* would be deprived of the benefit of knowing the intention of the author.

The objections against the *kind* of language made use of by the Indians are sound, because some expressions imply civilization and refinement. 'Seraphs, tales of treachery, types of beauty,' should have no place in the composition of Indian language. The author on

the other hand, is licensed, in order to represent the event of a choice of Carver for governour, to allow him to be proposed on shore. It is incident to Shakespeare and Dryden, to many of the old, and indeed of the modern dramatists, to take similar liberties.

Our author is mistaken when he asserts that the 'metrical composition' delivered by the Genius of Columbia, was not existing at the beginning of the seventeeth century. There are many specimens in ancient dramatists, previous to that period, of compositions of a similar description; but even if it were not the case, was it not a goddess who spoke it? and might she not very fairly be considered to have the right of inspiration?

Whatever charms Oceanus Fuller might have had for our author, we venture to say he would have had very few for the audience generally: and therefore was very wisely omitted. If any coarse expressions were introduced, the writer of the Pilgrims would do well to expunge them, when he prints the Melo Drama; though as this writer observes, that coming from Indians they are no doubt perfectly excusable: which remark however, does not seem to correspond with the censure, which he immediately after casts upon them, when he says 'it should have been remembered, that dirt without wit, is always extremely dirty.'

I will conclude, with remarking to the writer in the Repertory, that as there is nothing easier than to find indiscriminate faults, so there is nothing more difficult than to point out *real* errours and the methods by which they may be corrected. In the first case no body is benefitted; in the last, the author is corrected and the publick taught discrimination.

PETER QUINCE.

REMARKS *on* 'FOSCARI, *or the* VENETIAN EXILE.'

Concluded from page 110.

WE left the parents of Foscari with the council of ten, fruitlessly soliciting his pardon. In the meeting of the father and son, which takes place in prison immediately after this, Foscari is very anxious to be made acquainted with the Fate of Almeria, and learns that she 'lives in a lone retreat;' and he enquires why she does not

'within the bosom of her friends,
Look for that comfort which the world denies?'

The Doge however, for what sufficient reason we cannot discover, refuses to satisfy his curiosity, but tells him he soon shall be informed; and then remarks

'Count Erizzo
Is thy most deadly enemy!
For the present ask no farther of me;'

Now this was superfluous, for Foscari knew it before, as he says

'I know too well, he owes me deadly hate.'

However he comforts himself with the following very natural reflection, and exceedingly ingenious remark!

'O, *if I were free*,
Free from the bonds which so disgrace my name,
This instant would I fly to comfort her,
And clasping her within my arms, defy
His malice, and laugh to scorn his power.'

They depart, Foscari of course giving up all expectation of comforting Almeria in this way, as perfectly idle; in the mean time Policarpo, the assassin, whom Erizzo has employed in his service to watch Almeria, has learned that she and Foscari intend to meet in a bower, before they knew any thing respecting it themselves; and he and the Count enter armed and in disguise. They hide under some elms, and Policarpo advises the Count, who probably was 'a clumsy footed swain,' to 'tread light,' for fear *they should be 'overheard!'* After so necessary a caution, it was natural they should proceed with circumspection. Foscari enters in great despondency; how he gets away from his father and mother, is another affair. But his melancholy is relieved by the sight of, first

'*Th' initials* of *her* name:
Carved upon a tree;'

And then immediately underneath,

'Carv'd *at length* the name of her *Foscari.*'

From this affecting incident, he was roused by the approach of the lady herself. She comes in moralizing upon his picture, and after debating some time whether he is guilty or no, and satisfying herself of his innocence, she exclaims

'O! could I but behold that face again,
But press unto my soul.'

She then discovers him, throws herself into his arms, and enquires

'*Isn't* this a dream of a distemper'd mind;'

After all this she abruptly tells him to

'Avaunt, avaunt thou parricide!' calls him 'unparrallel'd assassin, wretch, a blight that witherest all before' him. Now though this transition of language astonishes, it does not daunt Foscari, and he is so near overcoming all her scruples, that she deems it necessary to fly from him. However, she soon returns, being pursued by Policarpo and Erizzo; Foscari protects her, and in the squabble, the assassin Policarpo, misses his man, and kills the *Count* instead of him. Erizzo, having some compunctious visitings of nature, thinks proper to send for the Doge, and confesses himself the real murderer of Count Dona-

to, and of course establishes the innocence of Foscari. But *he* in the mean time, had departed for the vessel in which he was to re-embark for Candia, and being overcome with agony at parting from his friends, he died before he reached the ship. Almeria runs mad at this event, and in conclusion, every body is as unhappy as so tragick a catastrophe could reasonably make them.

Although the play of Foscari is somewhat better than American dramatick productions have generally proved, it is to the last degree common-place in the conduct of the plot, the language and thought. There are numerous prosaick lines; mere prose 'cuttings of ten syllables,' and the best of the composition affords very little specimen of true poetry. There is sometimes discoverable a taudry embellishment in description, which only serves to render the poverty of the thought it is intended to illustrate still more evident. We do not recollect a single idea contained in this play, which aspires to the praise of excellence or novelty; but a kind of equal mediocrity universally prevails. The following examples, taken at hazard, evidently read as if they were plain prose:

'Weakness such as this will make me spurn thee;
Submit my child unto thy country's laws,
Nor ask of me what 'tis not in my power
To obtain.'

'How often hast thou clasp'd me to thy bosom,
Prest me with thy maternal tenderness,
Supported, carried *me in* those tender arms.

Yet the moment I hope is arriving.

'By heaven, Almeria, I am innocent,
By all that's sacred, THOU dost wrong me.'

Our author's originality of thought and strength of expression are fairly exhibited in this passage.

'Full six long years have past since 'neath these shades
Almeria listen'd to my tale of love;
I do remember the blest evening well;
We stroll'd together from our youthful friends,
And this appear'd the choice propitious spot,
Which tempted me to open all my soul:
Amid these groves *we oft have sat and read,*
And often have I seen her cheek bedewed
With tears, as her soft eyes have past the page
Of e'en fictitious woe.'

We sometimes discover mere transpositions of words, to give the language a poetical chime;

'But hast thou of Almeria yet no news?'

'A most faithful and deserving fellow,
Gomez by name—a man after my own heart.'

The following quotations are better, though by no means remarkably meritorious, since they are in some respects liable to the objection of prosaick expression:

'O what an awful moment of suspense
Is that which separates us from our bliss!
With firmness we resist the ruder shocks,
Which harass and perplex the life of man;
And our fortitude forsakes us only
When those misfortunes, which we dread to meet,
Are just about to vanish.'

'*Policarpo.* Revenge! trust me my friend, it is a jewel,
Which seldom is attain'd, unless dug up
With golden spades: poor men should rest content
To use the spade in service of the rich:
The willing hand may seldom need employ.
Gomez. I understand thee, Policarpo—Well,
Inlist me then, and I'll dig up the mine;
I'll turn up e'en the very hugest mound,
To find this precious gem: I'll labour hard,
Although it should adorn another's brow:
This once I'll find it, should I lose my soul!'

On the whole, though we cannot discover in the composition many of the particulars which constitute an excellent play, yet we are free to say, that we have perceived in the composition of Mr. White, something like genius for the dramatick; and we do not by any means, conclude him incapable of producing an excellent play, merely because his Venetian Exile is not eminent for its success.

FOURTH OF MARCH.

THE meetings of the Friends of the People on this glorious day will be 'multiplied in every section of our country.' Mr. Madison is this day inducted to the chair of state; the people's voice has been elevated in favour of this distinguished patriot, who has long been celebrated for his *love* for the COMMERCE of the United States and the *prosperity of New-England!* Like another Jefferson, he will begin his career all honey and roses; but let us beware of offending him, lest he should afterwards, from the example of his predecessor, diet us with gall and hemlock. Confident of the people's love, he will mag-

nanimously disregard the opinions of Federal disorganizers; and will hold his course right on, careless of the opposition of opinion.

'Hereafter, free from care his skiff shall glide,
Its compass Folly, Theory its guide
Adown the stream of state; no rocks t' impede,
No federal shoals to intercept its speed.
And should, perchance, from Eastern climes arise
The howling storm, and darken o'er the skies;
Though the rent sails be driven before the blast,
The cordage snap, and spring the groaning mast;
Yet on *one* anchor firm will he confide,
And all the perils of the storm deride.
The *people's favour* is that anchor sure,
With which, through every gale he'll ride secure;
And though, from want of skill, midst breakers cast,
That ever safely brings us up at last.'

MEETING OF THE PEOPLE'S FRIENDS.

'Let the Press perish,' loud the patriots cry,
'Let the Press perish,' echoing walls reply;
'Flourish Democracy,' the shout goes round,
'Flourish Democracy,' the walls resound.

A VALUABLE correspondent has been kind enough to favour us with some anticipated Toasts, which are to be given on this day The quotations from various authors will serve to show the erudition of the democrats, as well as their enthusiasick patriotism.

TOASTS.

THE OCCASION. Glorious in the American annals; though 'the dawn is overcast' and the 'tempest growls,' may the 'rays of the sun and the genial breeze,' make our difficulties 'vanish like the snow' in our streets; and 'may the *pack horse* of delusion no longer carry ammunition through our country, to blow up the administration,'* which now comes into power.

JAMES MADISON, ESQ. The worthy successor of the illustrious THOMAS JEFFERSON, ESQ.

'Our rulers must in turn obey,
'That every dog may have his day.'

* Chronicle.

THE FOURTH OF MARCH, 1809.

'The great, the important day,
'Big with the fate of Cato and of Rome;'

May our Federal Cæsars be *slumped* in the quick sands of Numidia before they can get to *Utica*,

'Where Cato gives his little senate law.'

BRITISH HIRELINGS. May those Tories who are paid for changing our constitution in British GUINEAS, never be able to obtain an American CROWN.

Confusion to the Press and Federal Printers.

'Tis clear enough we cannot get along,
Unless we shackle every Federal tongue;
Our fame in garb inviolable dress,
And bind in chains the freedom of the press.
And though with *them* 't were base, with us 'tis fit,
Since "one man's poison is another's meat;"
Nor does the adage in this case hold true,
That "Sauce for goose is sauce for gander too."

The Principles of Democracy. We hold them to be 'the *ark* of our safety, and the *rock* of our defence,' and clinging to them, we must either *sink* or *swim*.

The Republican Majority in Congress.

Wizards know their times;
Deep night, dark night, the silent of the night,
The time of night when Troy was set on fire;
The time when scritch-owls cry and ban-dogs howl,
When spirits walk, and ghosts break up their graves,
That time best fits the work we have in hand.

The '*morbid state of the Federal Body.*' May the grand restorative of '*military tonicks*' be rigorously applied to it.

The *conclusive* EMBARGO. 'Your majesty' and we that have empty purses, 'it touches not us;'

'Let the *gall'd* jade *wince*, our withers are unwrung.'

LIEUT. GOVERNOUR LINCOLN. Whose *inimitable* speech has promulgated doctrines, which his conduct as Commander in chief has confirmed.

THOMAS JEFFERSON. His second retirement to the mountains, equally evincive of patriotism as his first was of bravery, will 'tell well in history.' Song—Go to the devil and shake yourself. [We shall endeavour to obtain a copy.]

VOLUNTEERS.

One of the committee being called on for a toaft, rose. 'Mr. President,' said he, 'people in general may suppose I am not firm in my adherance to the cause, on account of my having once supported opposite principles. But, sir, I wish to have it understood, in order to show the *stability* of my opinions, and the *disinterestedness* of my republican attachment, I rise to give the health of that *undeviating* patriot, the Hon. Wm. K——g. 13 cheers—*Vicar of Bray.*

By the God of War.—*A Military Academy.*
Delightful task, to *fetch* the soldier up,
And teach the young republicans to *shoot.*
9 cheers; 'shoot the Feds,' from all quarters.

By Mr. K——n.—May the Spanish Patriots soon be *cut out* by Boney, and all the Tories in this country receive a complete *suit* of tar and feathers. *The Done-over Tailor.*

After several of the leaders had retired, a *gentleman* from the North End addressed the company. 'As the Doctor and the General and the Marshal are gone,' said he, 'I s'pose I'm a right to speak. I own I don't feel what is called comfortable. To be sure I can't complain of the goodness of the dinner, or its cost, because the *extra* is made up by our leaders, but confess I had rather a dined somewhere else.—Your damask curtains, and sillabubs, and flummery, may suit the Essex Junto and the Spanish Junto, and them folks, but it don't suit me. Its what none of us hav'nt been used to. I therefore move that the wine on the table be cork'd up and sent back to the landlord, and that we adjourn to the Green Dragon, to spend the rest of the evening in a *truly republican* fashion.' (*Carried by acclamations.*) What took place at the adjournment, we have not yet learned.

BOSTON THEATRE.

'Methought I heard a voice cry, Sleep no more;
'Macbeth hath murder'd sleep.'

WE have always believed that whatever is exhibited for publick encouragement, is a subject of publick investigation; and that the performers of the Stage, in a particular manner, are open to general criticism, not only from a right of prescription, but from the sound reason on which the practice is founded. Whoever pays the price of his ticket is immediately invested with the authority of a judge; and of course has an unquestionable right to *hiss*, or otherwise condemn those performers who are imperfect in what they undertake to play; whether

from natural ignorance, perverse inattention, or offensive intoxication. The performers of the Boston Theatre, we presume, have formed a resolution not to suffer any animadversions to be made upon their conduct before the publick (and with no other have we any concern); since we were yesterday most violently assailed by one of them, who declared he had neither *insulted nor offended* the audience, on Mr. Bernard's benefit night, and of course that the insinuation contained in the last Ordeal, was FALSE. We take it for granted the audience are the true judges, whether they have been *offended or insulted* or not, and the best expression of the sense of such offence or insult is a *general hiss!* But Mr. Caulfield says he did not *offend or insult* them, and we have declared the contrary. Now, we are not so foolish as to imagine that if we *prove* this performer to have been intoxicated, on Mr. Bernard's benefit night, that the circumstance will be sufficient to convince *him* of the offence or insult. We presume he will hereafter be as ready as he has been before, to come forward to the audience, both deficient in his part and reeling in his liquor; and bustle through the performance without either correctness or sobriety.

This kind of conduct in him, and this alone, restrained us from inflicting as far as lay in our power, such personal chastisment as his unparalleled insolence of deportment most unquestionably deserved. But if we are ever *obliged to descend* to act the part of a gladiator, we hope we shall perform it with propriety, and not reduce ourselves to the level of every bachanal who may happen to offend or insult us.

Mr. Caulfield was announced to sing the song of *Hail Columbia*, for the benefit of Mr. Bernard. He appeared before the audience, and made some fruitless efforts to effect the object in contemplation; but in vain,

'Twice he essay'd to speak, and twice his tongue,
'In his half open'd mouth, suspended, hung.'

He first attempted an apology, then tried a second time to sing; failed again, and then sat down. It might have been supposed that his words were frozen in Nova Zembla, had it not been evident that they were floating at random in a *warmer* region. The audience, at least, those with whom we have conversed, are with us in the opinion, that Mr. Caulfield both offended and insulted them on this occasion, and the best proof they could possibly advance of the truth of this assertion, is that they gave him a pretty general hiss.

If Mr. Caulfield supposes, that because he may have been correct in his various parts, and in his sober senses, for a few weeks, he ought not to be censured for his misconduct on Washington's birth night; the answer is apparent, that such disgrace is the more inexcusable on that very account; since it proves at once, his *capability* of doing well, and his want of shame in *neglecting* to do well.

THE

ORDEAL.

No. 10.] SATURDAY, MARCH 11, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICAL.

As for your personal character, I will not, for the honour of human nature, suppose that you can wish to have it remembered. The condition of the present times is desperate indeed: but there is a debt due to those who come after us; and it is the historian's office to punish though he cannot correct. JUNIUS.

LETTER.—No. 5.

To His Honour LEVI LINCOLN, Lieutenant Governour of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

SIR,

IT was believed by the Federalists and readily admitted by many of the least violent of your party, that the best policy to be pursued in relation to your Honour would be to suffer you to sink quietly from your conspicuous elevation, which is now only distinguished by your vices, into the profound insignificance from which you originally sprung. Your immediate friends, by whom I mean the heads of democracy and the promoters of crime, are, it seems, of a different opinion. Their purposes require a man who has as little concern for the prohibitions of virtue, as conception of the benefits of wisdom; who is equally destitute of shame for his misconduct, and desire of amendment. If they relinquish your Honour as a candidate at the approaching election, they may seek in vain throughout the prostituted ranks of democracy, for another leader so thoroughly drilled into the discipline, and qualified in all the vices of the service. No, sir, they consider you a statesman, who, not only in your religious and political creed, but in the virulence and incincerity of your practice, is the brightest ornament of your party. I hope, though it is an inferiour, it will not be a useless task, to endeavour to discover, and to portray those eminent peculiarities of character, which have rendered you so sufficiently base as to *out-dazzle* all your competitors for the prize of possessing the

fittest requisites to lead the democrats of Massachusetts. I would not have you suppose that I consider the investigation of any further importance, than as it is connected with political views; my principal object in considering your merits, will be to form some adequate estimate of the virtue of a party who will readily acknowledge such a man as your Honour to be their most accomplished compeer. I shall hope by such an attempt to rouse mistaken men from the extacies of their political delirium, and cause returning reason again to shed its light upon their minds.

I confess with reluctance that I am in some degree unfit for the task I have undertaken, for while it is evident that you *are* the most renowned hero of your party, yet I cannot possibly discover in your productions, any strength of mind, which should cause you to be famous, nor in your opinions sufficient plausibility to render you popular. Your vices too, are in no other respect peculiar, than as they are more malignant, than those of your brother democrats; so that I am reduced to this alternative; either you have concealed your abilities from all mankind excepting the chiefs of your party, or the great extent of your reputation rests entirely upon the blackness of your political infamy. You relieve me from the degrading necessity of following your career, through the grovelling baseness of your early life, until you have ascended to the pinnacle of your earthly ambition; your conduct as Lieut. Governour of this Commonwealth, is amply sufficient for my purposes. You now fill a large space in the eye of the publick, you are a conspicuous figure, always open to the adulation of your friends, and exposed to the denunciations of your enemies. Your deeds in this station have been worthless enough to gratify the revenge of the most malignant of your adversaries, and there is no necessity that they should pollute themselves with the scum of your former transactions, to ascertain more clearly the unworthy motives, by which you were at that time influenced.

The first circumstance which has distinguished your administration is an avowal of sentiments notoriously inconsistent with the principles of the constitution, and evidently intended to be prostituted to the interests of party. Sensible that the term of your duties would soon expire, and that the virtue of integrity would not be subservient to your friends, you determined to gratify their ambition at the expense of the welfare of

the country; and render your administration remarkable in the annals of the state, first by the profligacy of your doctrines, and then by the enormity of your conduct. Without any sense of your own dignity, or that of the commonwealth, you have dared secretly to undermine the ramparts of the laws. The President knew you to be ready to promote any scheme, however unconstitutional, by any stretch of power, however oppressive. He knew you to be a creature whose inclinations and professions afforded him a sufficient pledge that his personal revenge should at any rate be executed, in spite of any provisions in the laws or constitution which opposed it. Far from acting with the open, the undisguised patriotism of Governour Trumbull, who dared peremptorily to refuse his compliance with an illegal demand; you secretly and meanly followed the inclinations of your patrons at Washington, and one of the first of your official transactions was an absolute defiance of the very laws of which you are the ostensible guardian. This odious and contemptible behaviour is only an ebullition of that spirit of malignity, which without ever aspiring to the dignity of generous opposition, has marked the course of your whole life with a series of little, underhanded attempts to subvert the intentions of your political opponents. It remains to be seen how you will overcome the well supported charge for a deed which reduces all your other enormities to insignificance, and places an ulcer upon the forehead of your crimes, which excites all our attention, and engrosses all our abhorrence. Making every allowance for your ignorance, it appears evident from the features of the transaction, that you knew, in calling out any part of the militia of this state, you were acting without justifiable authority. The constitution, which you have always pretended to understand, you must have known, if you knew any thing, expressly dictates under what authority the President may call out the militia. He did not conform to it, he did not dare to conform to it. He dare not proclaim the citizens of this commonwealth in a state of insurrection. How could he order 'insurgents to disperse,' when there was no meeting of insurgents? How could he proclaim his intention of riveting the chains in which we were manacled, by a military power, when we professed no open intention to burst them asunder? No, sir, he intended, and so did you, to coerce the people into submission to his tyranny, by secretly sapping the

fortifications which neither you nor he had the courage to scale. But thanks to the vigilance of our centinels, the attempt was discovered; and we are yet to learn whether the traitors will escape the punishment they deserve.

The consequences of this treachery, however, I presume you foresaw, would attach you more closely to your party. They have seen with delight your zeal in their cause, and they determine to support you at every hazard. But I trust in God, there is yet a spirit of determined integrity in the majority of the people of this state, which will resist the encroachment of such infamous principles; and I have too good an opinion of the militia officers to suppose they ever could have united with you in subverting the laws of the country. But I believe I understand you; you are willing to favour the summary method of a military execution. If such are your wishes, I have only to add, that with a trifling change of person in the criminal, who is to suffer, I should not repine if they were gratified tomorrow.

MARCUS BRUTUS.

Mr. JEFFERSON's *Answer to the Citizens of Wilmington, and its vicinity.*

THE composition of this 'greatest man in America,' has always been the theme of my panegyrick; I have ever considered him to be the first statesman and purest writer, that this country ever produced. I have lately discovered another gem for the cabinet of his literary reputation. The following SENTENCE, taken from the answer of that illustrious man to the *citizens of Wilmington*, will afford us ample illustration of the clearness of that head, which has discovered an inexhaustible source of wealth in the salt mountains of Louisiana, and a powerful coercion on foreign nations in the ever memorable embargo laws. CENSOR.

'The *storm*, which, with little intermission, has been raging for so many years, which has *inundated* the ancient dynasties and institutions of Europe, and prostrated the principles of publick law heretofore respected, has hitherto been felt but in a secondary degree by us.'

Here Mr. Jefferson gives us a storm, which acts in a double capacity. First merely as a *storm*, as all storms should act; and

second, as a priest at a sacrifice, who has *immolated* the ancient dynasties, &c. I was at a loss at first to account for this change of character in the storm, which by doubling the metaphor, is contrary to the grovelling rules of fine writing; but the president has very wisely anticipated the objection, and introduces an expression which reconciles the whole: 'with little intermission.' Now it is evident that during the period of this 'little intermission,' the *storm* must have changed to the *priest*; though it must be confessed he had hardly sufficient time in that capacity, to *immolate* all the ancient dynasties and institutions of Europe: however, our illustrious author, sensible of this, soon metamorphoses him back again into a mere *storm*, to '*prostrate* the principles of publick law heretofore respected.' Besides this, we have hitherto felt the storm as such only 'in a secondary degree.'

ARRUTS.

This commentator has omitted to mention whether the great 'rage of the storm' storm continued under the character of the priest storm. This is a necessary point to be understood, since to be in a rage for 'many years' is inconsistent with the dignity of priesthood.

M. SCRIBLERUS.

'But threatening at length to involve us in its vortex,—it is time for all good citizens to rally round the constituted authorities,—by a publick expression of their determination to support the laws and government of their choice and to *frown* into silence all disorganizing movements.'

The first idea which this quotation affords, is the propriety of applying to a *storm* what common readers would refer to a *whirlpool*; now it is evident that though whirlpools or vortexes exist without storms, yet they may easily exist with them. Therefore it is peculiarly elegant to say 'the *vortex* of a *storm*.' But the main singularity of the expression is the easy departure of the President from the metaphorical to the literal, and his return to the metaphorical again; but without the same metaphor. Thus, for example. 'But threatening at length to involve us in its vortex, it is time for (what, *the storm*? oh no,) all good citizens to rally round the constituted authorities.' Well; having left the storm, for all good citizens, how do they contrive to rally? why, 'by a publick expression,' yes, *rally* by 'an expression of their determination to support the laws and government of their

the conquest of Prussia, after the battle of Jena, or indeed from any other campaign of Bonaparte. We cannot but think the peculiar warfare of the Spanish generals to have been the cause of all this delay. They kept their armies distinct from each other, so that the French were in a manner hemmed in a kind of triangle; on one angle, at the heights of Bilboa, Blake was posted, Castanos and Palafox were stationed at Viana and Tudella, whilst the army of Estramadura, under Frias, occupied Burgos and the neighbourhood. The head quarters of the French were at Vittoria, and from this place their movements were directed against the advanced guards of Castanos' army, who were driven from Leria and Logrono, on the borders of Ebro, by Marshal Moncey. The next operations were against Blake, which we have already given in detail.

The army of Estramadura, consisting of nearly 20,000 men according to the French account, were at Burgos, and were attacked on the 10th of November by the Duke of Dalmatia, and the Duke of Iuria. The Spaniards made no stand. They dispersed almost at the first onset. The French say there were only 300 men killed, and 3000 made prisoners. They were new raised recruits, consisting of the students of the universities of Salamanca and Leon, and the other militia corps, and probably as far inferiour in point of numbers to the French army, as they certainly must have been in steadiness and discipline. The head quarters of the French, immediately after this battle were removed to Burgos. We have not heard where the Spanish army have retreated, but suppose even if they have been dispersed they will rise again at the approach of the English, and make a more formidable resistance, as the discipline of real service increases.

No military operations of any importance after this took place until the 22d, when the French, directed their hostility against the army commanded by Generals Castanos and Palafox, stationed at Tudella and Calhorra. The French had waited quietly from the 10th to the 22d of November, until they could ascertain the retreat of Blake after the battle of Espinosa, that they might without much hazard require the services of the division of the Dukes of Belluno and Dantzick, who had been employed against him. The inactivity of the Spaniards during this time can only be accounted for, on the idea of their acting entirely on the defensive, until they should become convinced of the firmness and conduct of their forces in time of action; else it might fairly be presumed that an attack made upon the French whilst so large a proportion of the army were engaged in the mountains of Valmaseda, would have been eminently successful. In the battle of Tudella, the French brought their ablest generals and most veteran troops. Lannes was commander in chief, under him were Victor, Moncey and Ney; but Ney did not come up to his expected position in time. The Spaniards formed an oblique line from Cascante to Tudella. The

right wing at Tudella was commanded by Palafox, and the left at Cascante, by Castanos, which extended a league and a half; this errour the French took immediate advantage of, and pierced through the centre without fear, and Le Febre with his division of cavalry, pressed into the opening, and by a quarter wheel to the left, cut off the whole of Palafox's right wing. Castanos could not relieve him, which, had his force been concentrated, he might have done. But he was at the same time attacked by General Legrange, at the village of Cascante, and he retreated almost without resistance, but in good order. Palafox on the other hand, was treated more roughly; but on the whole, the Spanish loss, when viewed through the magnifying medium of French accounts, does not appear very alarming. There were only 6000 men engaged, and the enemy claim a loss of 4000 Spaniards, killed, or —— '*driven into the Ebro.*' The real loss is probably much less; but even that is small compared with the magnitude of the Spanish army, and the pretended completeness of the victory. After these battles, the French armies occupied nearly a square of about 160 geographical miles, and the Spanish and English armies were posted in various positions and in sufficient force on three sides of it: and from the extreme caution of the French movements, and the litle extent of country they have conquered, we do not yet think it time to suffer our expectations to subside into despondency.

Roads of Spain.

The following itinerary of the principal great roads from Madrid to the chief towns of the provinces, will be found very convenient by all persons reading the newspapers of the day. Many of the distances are stated from actual admeasurement: others are taken from the computed leagues of the country as estimated for the march of soldiers or hire of travelling horses, some of which have been corrected from the observations of the late M. Mechain, in his trigonometrical survey of Spain, in which he was employed, as well as in measuring a degree of the meridian in that country sometime in 1805. But as the country is very mountainous, and consequently the roads very crooked, no geometrical survey of the distances between the chief towns, as reduced from maps, can deserve the least attention; on the contrary, there are many places where the linear distances and the actual length of the carriage roads differ one fourth. It is to be observed that the nominal or common league of Spain is not less than four English miles, and that frequently the distance between villages estimated at a league, varies from 3½ to 4½ English miles.

Badajos.	Barcelona.	Burgos.	Cadiz.	Cordova.	Granada.	Jaen.	Leon.	Madrid.	Murcia.	Oviedo.	Pamplona.	Santiago.	Seville.	Toledo.	Valencia.	Zaragoza.
165	93	60	47	67	61	83	63	97	110	123	120	87	51	110	118	
	100	177	131	138	120	134	102	88	158	67	176	150	114	55	52	
		154	118	122	108	32	54	112	56	38	89	140	66	86	52	
			39	52	56	135	102	98	161	160	181	23	88	120	134	
				20	14	98	64	50	124	124	140	22	50	74	100	
					14	110	68	50	136	120	160	35	54	73	105	
						96	54	38	122	112	140	32	41	64	92	
							55	114	26	60	58	112	68	107	85	
								59	82	60	106	88	12	51	50	
									139	102	159	68	53	82	80	
										86	56	138	92	133	111	
											123	148	72	72	27	
												156	112	157	125	
													76	99	125	
														59	62	
															45	

This table represents the number of leagues between all the capital towns of the provinces, or, as they are usually called, kingdoms, and the metropolis or court of Spain, MADRID. If it is desired to know the distance between Badajos and Madrid, the angle of the column under the former, and immediately opposite the latter, gives 63 leagues, or 252 English miles: if from Badajos to Zaragoza, we find 113 leagues, or 452 English miles; and so with all the others.

N. B. The distances in this table are taken on the carriage roads, and not the bridle roads, which are shorter, more mountainous, and generally impassable to any thing but asses, mules, sheep, or black cattle. *Port Folio.*

POETRY.

THE poets of the northern section of the United States are as frigid as the season, and we have obtained but little assistance in this department. The occasional specimens, however, which appear in the Chronicle and other democratick papers, are apt to excite our risibility, if they do not extort our praise. The tendency of the original rhymes of that paper is almost always to some democratick purpose; on this account we shall feel obliged to any correspondent who will take the trouble to expose the absurdities either of style or sentiment, which are contained in such compositions; since by so doing he will confer a benefit on the community, and offer an agreeable repast to the lovers of good humour, and satirick assault. The intention of the following lines from the Chronicle, is to revive a subject which ought to be buried in oblivion; the *laws* have long since decided the question which it involves. We therefore have no hesitation in publishing the parody which follows them, which we have received from a correspondent.

From the CHRONICLE.

I send to the *Chronicle* the following lines written by J. DE WOLF, Esq. of Bristol, (R. I.)—which for their harmony of numbers, felicity of expression, originality of design, and adaptation to existing sensations of the publick mind, must possess a respectful standing on the list of good writing. LEANDER.

THE MURDERER'S DREAMS.

O'ER the bog and o'er the fen,
Through the dark and pathless glen,
At midnight's hour I stray—
By the thick, unwholesome stream,
Where noxious vapours dimly gleam,
And deadly exhalations rise,
And the black-wing'd raven flies;
Where the alligator sleeps,
And the dire asp envenom'd creeps,
I pace my lonely way.

Shrill sings the chill blast through the sedge,
Loud shrieks the night-bird from the hedge,
The wand'ring mad-dog yells—
Fell witches ply their hellish art,
And feast upon the infant's heart,
And blast me with their spells.

On the dark and lonely shore,
Where tempests howl and billows roar,
And burst upon the strand—
While lightnings hiss around my head,
And chill my guilty soul with dread;
In frantick fancy oft I stand.

With frantick yell, and horrid form,
The black-wing'd demon of the storm,
Above me lowly cowers—
He names the deed—the damning deed—
And points to murder'd forms that bleed,
While Heaven darker lowers.

Oft o'er the wild and blasted heath,
Mid shrieks of woe and forms of death,
Some phantom I pursue—
Pale eyeless spectres burst the ground,
And rush in maniack dance around—
Oft they raise their fleshless hands,
Beck'ning to where the gibbet stands,
And shout, 'behold thy due!'

Such are the dreams that hover o'er my bed,
Since by my arm the hapless AUSTIN bled!

MESSRS. EDITORS,

I send to the *Ordeal* the following lines, written by J. DE WOLF, Esq. of Bristol, (R. I.) in which I have made a few alterations, (much for the better) and which, for their harmony of numbers, felicity of expression, originality of design, conformity to truth, and adaptation to publick opinion, must possess a respectful standing on the list of good writing. LEANDER.

THE SLANDERER'S DREAMS.

WHEN on my restless couch reclin'd,
What horrid visions haunt my mind,
At midnight's solemn hour!
Methought the messenger of woe,
Bore me to sulph'rous realms below,
Consign'd to Pluto's power.

'Miscreant! (he cryied) the hour is come
Appointed for thy future doom;
Thy crimes shall have their due,

Thy slanders, and thy hate of truth,
Thy sins of age and sins of youth,
Shall pass in just review.'

O'er the bog and o'er the fen,
Through the dark and pathless glen,
Where the the alligator sleeps,
And the asp envenom'd creeps,
We take our dismal way;
By the thick unwholesome stream,
Where noxious vapours dimly gleam,
And deadly exhalations rise,
And the black-wing'd raven flies,
With trembling limbs I stray.

Red lightnings hiss around my head,
And chill my guilty soul with dread;
The wand'ring mad-dog yells:
Fell witches ply their hellish art,
And feast upon my grieving heart,
And blast me with their spells.

With frantick yell and horrid form,
The black-wing'd demon of the storm
Above me threatening cowers;
He names each sland'rous damning deed,
And points were murder'd reputations bleed,
While hell e'en darker lowers.

O'er the wild and blasted heath,
Mid shrieks of woe and forms of death,
Pale phantoms me pursue;
Millions of spectres burst the ground,
And rush in maniack dance around;
And raise their glaring sunken eyes,
Beck'ning to where the flames arise,
And shout 'behold thy due!'

Such are the dreams that hover o'er my head;
Such visions nightly haunt HONESTUS' thorny bed.

TRANSLATION FROM THE GERMAN.

WHOEVER has perused the prophetick metrical compositions of VAN VANDER HORDERCLOGETH must surely remember the poem

on the 3697 fol. of which the following is a translation; it commences thus—

Grom gronter gruber grout gropstock,
Zerbur zoop, &c.

All gloomy and sorrowful Beelzebub sat,
With his imps and his devils around,
When the thundering knocker of Hell's outer grate
Rang a peal so terrifick and loud on the gate,
That all Erebus echoed the sound.

Full swift to the portal the young devils flew,
And the long gloomy passage unbarr'd;
When a lanthorn-jaw'd monster stood forth to their view,
So meagre his figure, so pale was his hue,
That the devils all trembled and star'd.

All green were his eyes in their sockets decay'd,
His nose was projecting and wide,
In a dusty frock-coat was his carcase array'd,
On his scull he a three-corner'd scraper display'd,
And two volumes* he bore at his side.

So foul were his breath and the words that he said,
That his teeth had long rotted away—
And now to the devils a signal he made,
To show him their master, the devils obey'd,
And brought him where Beelzebub lay.

Old Beelzebub rose, as the monster came in,
And stood for a moment in dread;
For they look'd like each other enough to be kin,
Save that one had whole feet and a light-colour'd skin,
And the other had horns on his head.

'Whence art thou?' said Beelzebub; 'stranger, proclaim,
For if Satan can rightly divine,
Thou art surely some hero of throat-cutting fame,
For ne'er to these regions a spirit there came,
With figure so hellish as thine.'

'No throats have I cut,' the lank goblin replied,
With voice that was hollow and shrill;

* I have not been able to discover what these volumes were. There is a short note in the German, which implies that they were intitled Dulner Bounth.

'I have cheated, and bullied, and swindled, and lied,
Sedition and falsehood I've spread far and wide,
And in mischief I never was still.

'My name is —— ——;' no sooner he said,
Than Beelzebub rose with a grin;
He embrac'd the foul monster, who also display'd
His joy at the meeting, and both of them made
All Hell echo round with their din.

THE STAGE.

A REPLY

To certain observations contained in pages of the Ordeal, 135-6-7.

I AM perfectly aware that I misspend my time in making this reply. Yet as I have taken the affirmative, however trifling the subject of altercation, it is unquestionably my duty to support it. It is a fact, that whenever a person mistakes the general ground of argument, all his deductions must be ridiculous, irrelevant and false. The writer in the Ordeal presumes, that my intention in the Repertory of Feb. 24th, was critically to review that inimitable farrago, The Pilgrims, and on this presumption he founds his following observations. I had no such intention, and therefore all such observations are ridiculous and false. The absurdity of this presumption must be obvious to all. The club of Hercules was never intended to destroy mosquitoes, nor the lever of Archimedes to exalt pebble stones into the air. How despicable then would be the employment of Criticism upon such ephemeral productions as the Pilgrims. But since I have come into the business, I shall review these observations, as they occur, and I hope to the author's satisfaction.

The gentleman commences his remarks by telling us what is certainly nothing to the purpose, that "so far from being an enemy to theatrical criticisms, he has *sometimes dabbled* in them himself." I really do not doubt it; but neither this nor what immediately follows, has any thing to do with my observations. They were never intended as a criticism, as this writer has foolisly supposed, but were written on the evening of the play, as loose remarks; and had this writer known any right rule of criticism, he never would have make such a stupid supposition. But this gentleman has applied certain lines to me, by the way of compliment; yet he has rather a better right to them than I have. But as it is proper that I should return the compliment, I will give him these, as peculiarly applicable to himself:

Jocky ma Jory,
I'll tell you a story.
And now my story's begun,
Jocky ma Jother,
I'll tell you another,
And now my story's done.

He next proceeds to inform us what he is fond of; he is fond of American plays, he is fond of seeing them performed, and I suppose he is fond of peas in summer. The gentleman next observes, 'it is unreasonable to expect that historical personages are to be represented by actors, resembling them in person, and that such resemblance is not to be expected.' I have no design of displaying any *astutia* in reply to this observation, for the gentleman has luckily furnished me with an argument already. 'Garrick renounced Othello, because he was too small to give effect to the part.' What then? why the gentleman has completely overthrown himself. We are not to expect resemblances between the personages and the actors; and yet Garrick renounced the part of Othello, because this resemblance did not exist.

I know very little, says this gentleman, of the costume of our stage. The gentleman does not know the meaning of the word. 'The *audience* would have been convulsed with laughter to have seen (what, with their ruffs?) our mothers, represented by *young women*, dressed in long waists, wide sleeves and tuffs:' certainly they would, and so much the better; this was not so very tragical, surely. The gentleman wishes to know what language I would substitute for the English, to be used by the Indians: none at all; this should have been a pantomime, so far as respected any intercourse between the English and the Indians. But this illiterate gentleman insinuates that the objections against the *kind* of language *made use of* by the Indians are sound, because certain expressions imply civilization. I gave no such *because*; it was absurd that they should talk English at all; and if they did, the more so, that some of them should use such expressions as were quoted. Further, the gentleman observes that the metrical composition, spoken by the Gentile, was existing at the beginning of the seventeenth century; before the year sixteen hundred and fifty. The gentleman is mad. He either is ignorant what the composition was, or does not understand the method of computing years.

I have done—It is my sincere hope, however, that I may never become acquainted with any person, *as the author of the stuff* to which I have now replied. For I certainly view him as a person of wretched talents, and pitiful arguments.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 11.] SATURDAY, MARCH 18, 1809. [Vol. I.

POLITICAL.

What remains to be done concerns the collective body of the people. They are now to determine for themselves, whether they will firmly and constitutionally assert their rights; or make an humble, slavish surrender of them at the feet of the ministry To a generous mind, there cannot be a doubt, we owe it to our ancestors to preserve entire those rights, which they have delivered to our care; we owe it to posterity, not to suffer their dearest inheritance to be destroyed. JUNIUS.

THE NEW PRESIDENT.

THE period, which all America has expected to arrive with the strongest emotions of hope, fear and solicitude, is now past; and it is at this moment as difficult to determine what we are to expect of Mr. Madison, and what is to be the ultimate destiny of the nation, as it was a year ago. The time of the inauguration of the new President was peculiarly adapted in the present deranged state of our publick affairs, and distressed condition of the publick mind, to unfold his principles of national policy, and to trace with some little precision the future course of his conduct. Not only America, but the whole world, will consider attentively the opinions of the new President at his induction to office as an index, which will point out with some degree of accuracy the the contents of his political works; from this, the two great belligerent powers will expect to determine in what light they are to view him, whether as an open or concealed enemy; or as a friend to one and an opponent of another power. All that we can discover from the address of his Excellency is the truth of our former predictions, that he would support the old system which his predecessor had erected, and which every thinking man in the community believed was rotten at the foundation.

Throughout this speech, we can trace that same tendency to indecision of expression, from which nothing can be drawn, that characterized his predecessor, as well as the same cant of friendship to all nations and to all his fellow citizens, of economy, the discharge of the publick debt, of the diffusion of knowledge and civilization among the Indians, and of information among the people, &c. &c. The editor of the New-York Evening Post refrains from making any remarks

upon the address, because he hopes Mr. Madison will appoint Federalists to offices of trust, and adopt an entirely different policy from that practiced by Mr. Jefferson; but for our part, whilst we shall be ready to acknowledge at any moment, whatever dignified or honourable act the President may think proper to perform, we cannot refrain from remarking that we cannot discover in the sentiments of this first speech, any foundation for such a belief, or any the most remote allusions to such praiseworthy intentions. Our remarks therefore will be perfectly unrestrained upon the subject. We confess we have strong prejudices against *inaugural speeches* in general; we have been dosed with their hypocrisy before now, and perhaps we may form a rash judgment in respect to this of Mr. Madison's. At any rate, we hope we shall hear no more of the *white sattin and letters of gold*, which the inaugural address of another President most shamefully disgraces.

If the talents of the new President are not to be made more evident by his transactions than they are in this address, well may he declare that he 'repairs to the post assigned him with no other discouragement than what springs from *his own inadequacy* to its duties.' If he has a proper sense of his own *inadequacy*, we should imagine *that* were alone sufficient to render his new office intolerably burthensome.

Mr. Madison begins his career of duty with a non-intercourse act, which he expects will afford him a temporary popularity, by the partial repeal of the embargo law, which it includes. This act was probably dictated by the new President; it is his; it is incorporated in his administration; it does not begin to operate until his appointments have been made. The motives of this act, however, we really believe principally resulted from calculations of popularity; and it is doubtful whether the good of the country had any share in the decision. Congress believed it requisite they should do something. War was out of the question; there is no preparation for it, notwithstanding all Mr. Jefferson's talk; and all Europe, to our eternal disgrace, are sensible that our national spirit and honour can never be exalted any higher than to a calculation of profit and loss. All that Congress dared to do was to hold out a threat, which both Great-Britain and France perfectly well know will end in its concession. This conclusion can be drawn from the face of the whole transaction; if France or Great-Britain do not rescind their decrees, where is our power to enforce our rights, and maintain our honour? Distance, and distance alone is our safety; the only reason which enables us to preserve our national existence. For as to any intrinsick energy which we ever possessed, it has evaporated through our calculating brains. The non-intercourse is worse than the embargo, because it cannot be considered merely a municipal regulation; it is a measure of hostility, a war measure, a measure of defiance. It is like a child running at a man with a wooden sword from a toy shop: the injury to the belligerent powers, will be just about as effectual, and it

lies with them to treat us with justifiable contempt, or whip us into sense.

The new President has been evidently partial to the French nation, in all his negociations. The last publication of *suppressed* documents prove the assertion beyond all doubt or contradiction. And even this non-intercourse law, has a tendency the same way. Whilst all trade and all intercourse between us and any port in the actual possession of the English and French is prohibited; we find the terms of expression so guarded as to admit the construction of an admission to trade with Holland, by which, if it can be prosecuted, Napoleon will derive nearly all the benefit which could result to him from a trade directly with France. If Holland is not a dependency of France, when governed by a French king, what reason is there for doubting, as Mr. Gallatin does, about granting clearances to the kingdom of Italy? But the effect of this new law on the morals of this community, will be to the last degree deplorable; it erects a system of commerce which will probably be extensive, but which will be the most corrupt that can possibly be imagined. England will be supplied indirectly through Portugal, with cotton, and we shall pay the additional expences in the manufactures, which we shall inevitably receive in return, through Canada. Of course, our most solemn oaths, will be a mere formulary of words; and the frequent repetition of falsehood will at last make us believe it of no importance. This pretended panacea for the diseases of the political body, will be universal in its operation; but the malady will not be removed.

Mr. Madison's address on taking the oath of office seems to us replete with misrepresentation and cant. Among the proofs of what he denominates 'the unrivalled growth of our faculties and resources,' which distinguished this country, until lately, he enumerates 'the progress of manufactures and useful arts;' than which no assertion can be more erroneous. There is, perhaps, no country so little distinguished for manufactures as this; and the circumstance of the general ill-success of all manufacturing schemes is a proof of our great prosperity in other respects. Placed as this nation has been in a situation so singularly advantageous, as to enjoy all the advantages of war, without any of its evils; we owe all our prosperity to our distance from the scenes of warfare; and to the contempt with which we were for a long time viewed by the belligerent powers. 'The benign influence of our republican institutions,' as Mr. Madison so affectedly styles them, has had nothing to do in producing the effect. 'It was in the nature of things, that *our commercial spirit* should promote the prosperity which the peculiar state of our foreign affairs invited us to enjoy. The hostility to that enjoyment was first promulgated by Mr. Jefferson; and Mr. Madison, in his famous resolutions in 1794, seconded the endeavour.

Mr. Madison then makes the following assertion; 'it has been the true glory of the United States to cultivate peace by observing justice, and to entitle themselves to the respect of the nations at war, *in fulfilling their neutral obligations, with the most scrupulous impartiality.*' If there be truth or candor in the world, the truth of these assertions will not be questioned. Posterity will at length do justice to them.'

We generally doubt the sincerity of an observation, where such an evident *wish* appears that it may seem to be true. This question of partiality is undoubtedly Mr. Madison's sore place, and he hopes to salve it over, or wrap it up in an appeal to the 'candor and truth of the world.' We do believe him, notwithstanding all this parade, to have been always decidedly partial to the interests of France, and in as great a degree hostile to the views of Great-Britain.

His arguments on the question of impressment were evidently dictated by such hostility; for it is clear that the *claim* of the British in searching a foreign merchant vessel for deserters, is in its nature equally just, with the undoubted right of searching a neutral vessel for contraband goods. The reasoning in both cases will equally apply. The exceptions taken by Mr. Madison to the course the British have pursued, are applicable exclusively to the *practice* of that nation, and do not affect the *right* at all. The long pamphlets, which he has written expressly for the purpose of making British hostility evident, where there was never any intended; the apparent insincerity of the negociations on the British treaty, by Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, who followed his instructions; and more recently his correspondence with Mr. Rose, on the Chesapeak disaster, afford ample evidence of his willingness to irritate, and unwillingness to heal the wound inflicted on us by Great-Britain. His conduct in regard to France is equally instructive of his partiality. His suppressed correspondence with General Armstrong, as disgraceful to his honour as it is pernicious in its tendency, would not leave us any doubts upon the subject, even if we were otherwise unsatisfied. His abject fear of the French emperour, his tone of supplication, and his invariable style of communicating his sentiments form a contrast with his deportment towards Great-Britain, as striking as it is instructive. Indeed it was not until the Federalists made some very severe strictures on the conduct of the administration, particularly as respected their foreign partialities, and until this opinion began to gain circulation, that we heard any thing from government about French hostility; and we believe the Berlin decree would have been silently acquiesced in, or only formally noticed, if such bold truths had not been told by the Federalists. Then indeed, the tone of the administration *at home* began to change; and France was coupled with England in our state papers. But in France what Napoleon's impression of our hostility was, can be collected from General Armstrong's letter to Mr. Madison, in which he expresses his belief that our measures will never

go beyond *words, words, words*, that we dare not declare war against France, any more than the minister of foreign relations dare mention our commercial pretensions to the irritable emperour. This impression of Napoleon's is made more evident by his publick expression concerning us; 'the *allies of France and the United States* sacrifice, with a resolution equally generous, their private conveniences, in repelling from all points the English commerce.' Thus we are, in the opinion of the emperour, coupled with France, in resisting the British nation. What our negociations with the French ministry to authorise such a conviction must have been, it is more easy to imagine than decide.

From such an opinion as we entertain of Mr. Madison's sincerity, we cannot believe the following sentence, that in the fulfillment of his duty as President, among other motives which will actuate him, he includes 'to cherish peace and friendly intercourse with all nations, having correspondent dispositions; to maintain sincere neutrality towards the belligerent nations; to prefer in all cases, amicable discussion and reasonable accommodation of differences, to a decision of them by an appeal to arms; to exclude foreign intrigues and foreign partialities, so degrading to all countries, and so baneful to free ones.'

We should have thought Mr. Madison had better have omitted any mention of Mr. Jefferson, than thus to satirise him; after saying he has the good fortune to have the path in which he is to tread, *lighted* by examples of services the most illustrious, he proceeds to observe: 'Of those of my immediate predecessor it might least become me here to speak; I may, however, be pardoned for not suppressing the sympathy with which my heart is full, in the rich reward he enjoys in the *benedictions of a beloved country*, gratefully bestowed for exalted talents, zealously devoted through a long career, to the advancement of its highest interests and happiness.'

The '*benedictions of a beloved country*' is an expression evidently ironical. A fifteen months embargo, his negociations abroad, hypocrisy at home, and the universal distress in which he has left the United States produce the strongest probability that the 'benedictions' of which Mr. Madison speaks, more resemble hatred and execration.

SPANISH AFFAIRS.

TO place too strong a reliance on the militia of a country is the general fault of visionary politicians. Courage, heroism, personal strength, and patriotick motives may do very well for a little time, but they will soon give way to steadiness, concert, superiour discipline and tactick. The experience of all

great generals, from Carthaginian Hannibal to Russian Suwarrow, proves the truth of this assertion. There is scarcely an instance where levies of militia, suddenly raised, have ever made any long stand against regular troops. It is *real service* and the practice of tactical knowledge, that will make soldiers, better than all the theory which can be invented. The Prussians, before the battle of Jena, were considered the best soldiers in Europe; the English had adopted their discipline and tactics; and, to be sure, as far as mere proficiency in the manual exercise, external appearance and accurate manœuvres went, they were excellent troops. But the new tactics of the French were too much for them; and they had been out of practice for many years: the consequence was, they were cut to pieces by Napoleon. In our revolutionary war we were almost always beaten when we came to action in the open field; and it was the true policy of Washington to retire to heights and other strong defensive positions, where he intrenched himself, and would never give battle if he could avoid it, but upon terms decidedly advantageous to himself.

The policy, which the Spanish generals are pursuing, is evidently the best, which they could adopt. They carry on a kind of partizan warfare; they do not concentrate their whole army, and hazard the fate of the country upon the issue of a general engagement. The battles of Austerlitz and Jena speak a lesson to them, upon the subject, too striking to be disregarded. If they are attacked they defend themselves as well as they are able, but retire when the danger of entire defeat becomes apparent. Thus the French make a progress in the country; but the Spaniards, sometimes successful and sometimes worsted, are learning to become good soldiers, and their officers are every day gaining intelligence. Peter the great first brought the Russians to be good soldiers; he fought with Charles the 12th of Sweden, and though at first more than 60,000 of his troops ran from 10,000 Swedes, yet before the war was ended, the Russians had learned to beat their instructors in the famous battle of Pulowa. The Supreme Junta, in recommending this system of warfare to the Spanish Generals, have been of incalculable service to their country; we are not prepared to declare that the Spaniards will ultimately succeed in their glorious struggle, but we really can conceive of no better system of defence

than that on which they now practice. The Spaniards have a most excellent officer in General Blake; his retreat through the mountains of Asturias will be considered a masterly one hereafter by military men; and by the last accounts from Spain, it appears that he is enlarging his army in Leon, and is again preparing to attack the enemy. This intimation, however it may seem to contradict his having resigned the command of the army on the 27th of November to the Marquis of Romano, may be reconciled on the supposition that he has begun to collect another; which supposition is not weak, if it be considered that Romano has joined the English at Salamanca or Benevento.

The accounts which General Castanos gives of the battle of Tudella differs in many essential particulars from the French bulletins. In our last number we gave as clear an account of that action, as could be obtained from the perverted sources from which we derived it. But Don Castanos, in a great measure contradicts it, he claims a victory, and though this cannot be granted him, it appears that so far from giving way on the first approach of the French, the Spaniards fought with much steadiness and actually repulsed them. On the left particularly the Spaniards were eminently successful, but pursuing their successes too far, they lost the day; for the French, as they state in the bulletin, penetrated through Tudella, and took the pursuing Spaniards in the rear. But let us hear the Spaniard himself.

'On the 23d the advanced parties reported that three columns of the enemy were marching in the direction of Tudella; the *generale* was beaten, and while the troops of Arragon were passing the bridge, the enemy occupied the points of attack, which began at eight o'clock in morning; at ten o'clock the whole line was engaged.—Our troops maintained their position with the utmost valour, and the enemy was repulsed on both sides. He renewed the attack, and rendered himself master of an olive grove on the left, whence he descended with a tremendous fire, but was so well received by our gallant troops, that after the most obstinate conflict he was compelled to retreat, while our troops were pursuing the defeated enemy on our left, when another division of the enemy penetrated through Tudella on the right, and took our pursuing troops in the rear. This decided the fate of the day, and nothing was left for our army but to retreat to Borja. While this was going forward

in Tudella, the 4th division, commanded by Gen. LAPINA, which was in Cascante, two hours march from the field of battle, and had received orders to attack the right flank of the enemy, found 3000 French infantry, and 1000 cavalry opposed to them, in the act of offering battle; LAPINA immediately engaged, defeated and pursued them to the heights of Tudella, whence he was attacked by the enemy's troops, who occupied the heights. LAPINA retreated to the position of Cascante, where he defeated the enemy, and at the fall of night began to fall back to Borja, according to the last order he received; on his retreat he was again attacked by the enemy, but new troops checked his progress, and the four divisions reached Borja, where they marched to Calahayad.

The forces of the enemy in these actions of Tudella and Cascante amounted to from 36 to 40,000 infantry and from 6 to 7000 cavalry. Their loss has been very considerable, as has likewise ours, in missing and prisoners, but the number cannot be accurately stated till the Generals of the Divisions have made out and delivered their lists.'

After this, Castanos for want of means of subsistence in Calahayad, resolved to proceed to Seguenza, which is nearer Madrid, since which we have not heard from him; he will probably remain in some convenient position, to act against the enemy in the event of his attacking Sarragoza, which it is said, is threatened by the Duke of Cornegliano.

After the battle of Tudella, Bonaparte could not anticipate many obstacles to his proceeding for Madrid, and he accordingly crossed the Duero at Aranda, on the 29th of November, and established his head quarters at the village of Bougillas. The 18th bulletin gives an account of an affair in the narrow passage of Puerto, or the post of Somosierra, in which they claim a victory. The Spanish account of the same action, on the contrary, declares that Don Benito S. Juan, who commanded the post, 'effected the complete defence of this point.' However bravely the Spaniards fought on this occasion, it is pretty certain they were obliged to abandon the position, for the head quarters of the French were removed on the 1st of December, to St. Augustine, and on the 2d to St. Martin near Madrid.

Madrid capitulated on the 5th of December, with merely a show of resistance; but there appears to have existed much un-

easiness among the lower classes of people, who were willing to have hazarded their lives in defence of the city; and notwithstanding the cautious language of the bulletins, it will be necessary to keep an extraordinary body of troops to overawe the multitude. Should this be the case, it will much facilitate the operations of Castanos and Palafox on one side, and the junction of Sir John Moore and Sir David Baird with the Marquis of Romano on the other. The movements of the English troops have been uncommonly cautious. In consequence of Castanos' defeat at Tudella, they had considerably receded; but that affair not proving so decisive as was apprehended, they turned about again. Sir John Moore had reached Salamanca in Leon, from Portugal, and the latest news we have of him, the 19th of December, is that he had nearly formed a junction with Sir David Baird, and the latter General was at Benevento. Another account asserts that Romano had actually joined the English, and that the combined army were going to march for Valladolid with a view of cutting off the communication between the army at Madrid and Astonga. On the same authority we hear of another action at Tudella, in which Castanos had defeated the French with great slaughter.

On the whole, we do not perceive that the affairs in Spain have grown by any means desperate, because Napoleon has captured Madrid: on the contrary there are many topicks of consolation and encouragement; the capacity of General Blake, the probable junction of the English armies with Romano, the favourable situation of Castanos and Palafox after the battle of Tudella, the ill success of the French in Catalonia, the determined resistance of the province of Asturias, and generally the unconquered spirit of the Spanish people.

FRENCH DIGNITARIES.

AS the new nomenclature of the French Generals occasions some difficulty to the readers of the Bulletins, we insert the following key of the new titles, with which Napoleon has distinguished his peculiar favourites.

The Prince Arch Chancellor of the Empire (Camberceres)	Duke of Parma.
The Prince Arch Treasurer, (Le Brun)	Placenza.
Marshal Moncey,	Cornegliano.
Massena,	Rivali.
Angereau,	Castiglione.
Soult,	Dalmatia.
Lannes,	Montebello.
Mortier,	Treviso.
Ney,	Elchingen.
Davoust,	Austerdadt.
Bessieres,	Istria.
Victor,	Belluno.
Lefebre,	Dantzick.
Kellerman,	Valmy.

COLONELS GENERAL.

Marmont,	Ragusa.
Junot,	Abrantes.

GREAT OFFICERS OF THE CROWN.

Caulincourt, Great Chamberlain,	Vicenza.
Duroc, Great Marshal of the Palace,	Frione.

GENERALS.

Savary,	Rovigo.
Areglei,	Puda.

DEMOCRATICK CONSISTENCY.

GILES *versus* GILES.

WE recollect with what wonderful avidity of panegyrick the first speech of Mr. Giles on the embargo laws was extolled by all the democrats in the United States; he was the Goliath of Gath, who undertook singly to fight all the host of Israel upon the subject. He defended it as stoutly as he could. He talked especially of its *coercion* on foreign nations; he proposed the LAST embargo bill in the Senate, advocated its principles in all its stages, and appeared to all intents and purposes the most active legislator in supporting by sophistry the unconstitutionality of its powers, and the necessity of enforcing the political

dreams of the President. But he has lately offered us a lesson on the *sincerity* of all this declamation, which will teach us how to respect in future the political integrity of Mr. Giles. On the resolution for raising the embargo and adopting the non-intercourse policy he observes—

"I have never relied so much on the *coercive effects of the embargo singly*, as some gentlemen have done; and I have at all times been of opinion, that preparations for more efficient measures should have been made to come in aid of, or substitute the embargo, whenever it should be ascertained that it had failed of its coercive objects."

This assertion is an absolute falsehood, if we are to believe his former observations; or, if we cannot give credit to them, then he was guilty of shameful untruth in maintaining so ardently such doctrines, as he knew were absolute tyranny, if the embargo was ineffectual abroad.

It seems that Mr. Giles has now found out that the non-intercourse is an admirable measure, and the embargo was good for nothing. He has no compunction for the distress and calamity of the country under its operation for fifteen months.

You can never expect a democrat to argue reasonably. His notions are confined to the immediate result of the experiment without reflecting on the consequences of the undertaking. The experiment of the embargo failed; but the non-intercourse is to bring foreign nations to terms. The British nation, however, will enjoy the commerce from which we have excluded ourselves; and we may hug ourselves with satisfaction at the blessed effects of non-intercourse. The reasoning of Mr. Giles is very much like that of a name-sake of his, whom we recollect to have been formerly acquainted with in an epigram:

GILES Jolt, as sleeping in his cart he lay,
Some waggish pilferers stole his *team* away;
Giles wakes and cries, "What's here! ods dickens, what?
Why, how now, am I Giles, or am I not?
If he, I've lost six geldings to my smart;
If not, ods buddikins, I've found a cart."

THE GERMAN SCHOOL OF POETRY.

THE admiration with which the principal writers of the German School are viewed in this country, seems to demand an exposition of the perverted principles of taste, on which such writers compose. The gairish ornament and tinsel decoration, which are necessary to satisfy expectation in American composition, can only result from bad taste. A continual hankering after tropes, metaphors and similes, seems universally to pervade all American notions of good writing: and the neatness of Addison and genuine anglicism of Swift will stand no chance of success, when contesting with the voluputous effusions of Darwin, the multiplied metaphors of Southey, the horrours of Schiller, or the tender morality of Kotzebue. We imagine the following extract from an uncommonly learned and discriminating European work will afford our readers some instruction, upon this very important literary subject.

'THE disciples of this school boast much of its originality, and seem to value themselves very highly, for having broken loose from the bondage of the antient authority, and re-asserted the independence of genius. Originality, however, we are persuaded, is rarer than mere alteration; and a man may change a good master for a bad one, without finding himself at all nearer to independence. That our new poets have abandoned the old models, may certainly be admitted; but we have not been able to discover that they have yet created any models of their own; and are very much inclined to call in question the worthiness of those to which they have transferred their admiration. The productions of this school, we conceive, are so far from being entitled to the praise of originality, that they cannot be better characterised, than by an enumeration of the sources from which their materials have been derived. The greatest part of them, we apprehend, will be found to be composed of the following elements: 1. The antisocial principles and distempered sensibility of Rousseau—his discontent with the present constitution of society—his paradoxical morality, and his perpetual hankerings after some unattainable state of voluptuous virtue and perfection. 2. The simplicity and energy (*horresco referens*) of Kotzebue and Schiller. 3. The homeliness and harshness of some of Cowper's language and versification, interchanged occasionally with the *innocence* of Ambrose Philips, or the quaintness of Quarles and

Dr. Donne. From the diligent study of these few originals, we have no doubt that an entire art of poetry may be collected, by the assistance of which the very *gentlest* of our readers may soon be qualified to compose a poem as correctly versified as Thalaba, and deal out sentiment and description, with all the sweetness of Lambe, and all the magnificence of Coleridge.

'The most distinguished symbol' of the authors of whom we are now speaking, 'is undoubtedly an affectation of great simplicity and familiarity of language. They disdain to make use of the common poetical phraseology, or to ennoble their diction by a selection of fine or dignified expressions. There would be too much *art* in this, for that great love of nature with which they are all of them inspired, and their sentiments they are determined shall be indebted, for their effect, to nothing but their intrinsick tenderness or elevation. There is something very noble and conscientious, we will confess, in this plan of composition; but the misfortune is, that there are passages in all poems that can neither be pathetick nor sublime; and that, on these occasions, a neglect of the establishments of the language is very apt to produce absolute meanness and insipidity. The language of passion, indeed, can scarcely be deficient in elevation; and when an author is wanting in that particular, he may commonly be presumed to have failed in the truth, as well as in the dignity of his expression. The case, however, is extremely different from the subordinate parts of a composition; with the narrative and description, that are necessary to preserve its connexion; and the explanation that must frequently prepare us for the great scenes and splendid passages. In these all the requisite ideas may be conveyed, with sufficient clearness, by the meanest and most negligent expressions; and if magnificence or beauty is ever to be observed in them, it must have been introduced from some other motive than that of adapting the style to the subject. It is in such passages accordingly, that we are most frequently offended with low and inelegant expressions; and that the language, which was intended to be simple and natural, is found oftenest to degenerate into mere slovenliness and vulgarity. It is in vain, too, to expect that the meanness of those parts may be redeemed by the excellence of others. A poet, who aims at all at sublimity or pathos, is like an actor in a high tragick character, and must sustain his dignity throughout, or become alto-

gether ridiculous. We are apt enough to laugh at the mock-majesty of those whom we know to be but common mortals in private; and cannot permit Hamlet to make use of a single provincial intonation, although it should only be in his conversation with the grave-diggers.

'The followers of simplicity are, at all times, in danger of occasional degradation; but the simplicity of this new school seems to be intended to ensure it. *Their* simplicity does not consist, by any means, in the rejection of glaring or superfluous ornament—or in that refinement of art which seeks concealment in its own perfection. It consists, on the contrary, in a very great degree, in the positive and *bonâ fide* rejection of art altogether, and in the bold use of those rude and negligent expressions, which would be banished by a little discrimination. One of their own authors, indeed, has very ingeniously set forth, (in a kind of manifesto, that preceded one of their most flagrant acts of hostility), that it was their capital object 'to adapt to the uses of poetry, the ordinary language of conversation among the middling and lower orders of the people.' What advantages are to be gained by the success of this project, we confess ourselves unable to conjecture. The language of the higher and more cultivated orders may fairly be presumed to be better than that of their inferiours; at any rate, it has all those associations in its favour, by means of which a style can ever appear beautiful or exalted, and is adapted to the purposes of poetry, by having been long consecrated to its use. The language of the vulgar, on the other hand, has all the opposite associations to contend with, and must seem unfit for poetry, (if there were no other reason), merely because it has scarcely ever been employed in it. A great genius may indeed overcome these disadvantages; but we scarcely conceive that he should court them. We may excuse a certain homeliness of language in the productions of a ploughman, or a milkwoman; but we cannot bring ourselves to admire it in an author, who has had occasion to indite odes to his college-bell, and inscribe hymns to the Penates.

THE PORT FOLIO.

THIS miscellany has at length made its appearance, and we believe, not in its typographical elegance, but in the talents which are displayed in it, has generally gratified the desires of impatience, and fulfilled the expectations of criticism. How far the entire exclusion of all political and religious topicks may be popular, the conductors, having probably reflected much upon the plan, are undoubtedly the most experienced judges. For our part, we consider them topicks of the most general interest, and we believe there has never long existed any publication of great celebrity or circulation, which has not been obliged to take some decided part in the political and religious controversies of the times. The Gentleman's Magazine, certainly, soon after it was established, resorted to political discussion to increase its circulation; the Monthly and Edinburgh Reviews, Aikin's Athenæum, the Literary Panorama, and the Monthly Magazine, all maintain a certain set of political opinions, and adhere to them with the most scrupulous pertinacity. Whilst, therefore, we should naturally be led to doubt, whether a publication conducted on the present plan of the Port Folio would probably excite a very *extended interest* in the publick mind, yet we are ardent admirers of the abilities with which the work appears to be conducted, and we want no further poof to convince us how effectually it will 'vindicate the literary reputation of America.'

As the basis on which the conductors of this publication intend to erect their reputation is *literature* exclusively, so to give variety to the parts and beauty to the whole fabrick, they expect to derive assistance from many workmen. The Biographer, the Satirist, the Dramatick Critick, the Antiquary, the Philosopher, the Essayist, the Historian, the Poet, the Traveller, the Humourist, the Novelist, and Man of Science will lend their aid to diversify and adorn with their united powers the pages of the Port Folio. We cannot question the ability of the *whole confederacy*, when the pleasures we have derived from the labours of only *one* of them for a long course of years, have been so exquisite and powerful. This '*solid column of literature*,' has indeed a broad base; and if a purely literary establishment can succeed

in this country, such conductors as those apparently concerned in *this* work, and *such only* will be able to attain an object at the same time so desirable and uncertain. We shall delight to mark the luminous progress of this orb through the literary hemisphere; but we fear it will rather resemble a comet, calculated to excite our wonder and amazement for a transient period, than a luminary of steadier light, which we can permanently enjoy. We think that the scholar and philosopher 'will delight to encourage so praiseworthy an establishment:' but they are few, and widely scattered in our country; as to the 'merchant, manufacturer and man of the world,' we believe few of them would peruse, and still fewer applaud a publication, the object of which is to extend the boundaries of science, add new accuracy to taste, and cultivate the growth of literary enterprize.

THE NEW CHURCH.

THE NEW MEETING-HOUSE, which is to be erected at the head of the Mall, should, in order to be made a profitable speculation, contain a cellar of sufficient convenience to admit *grog-shops and confectioners' stalls*, like that under the Old South. It will be found a place of extremely convenient resort for the coach-men and other idle gentlemen, who frequent that part of the town; and will not be in any respect inconsistent with the principles of Calvinism, which the church itself will espouse. The leaders may then have abundant proofs of the *natural depravity* of man, and of the *influence of the spirit* in counteracting *human reason*. They may expect a hopeful stock of recruits, with all the important qualifications requisite to be admitted into the ranks of Hopkinsianism, viz. first, a loss of reason; next, an abundance of *ardent spirit*; and lastly, an ample stock of natural depravity. The great increase of such incomprehensible tenets of late years may perhaps be accounted for, from the combination of grog-shops with meeting-houses, so frequently observable in New-England.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 12.] SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POETRY.

WE are obliged to a correspondent for the following ODE, which we think will vindicate the reputation of the writer from the charge of being addicted to a simplicity bordering on folly in his compositions. There are expressions in this composition, of a most elevating and surprising effect; and it will certainly *rope, and* [illegible] as Mr. Bayes says, with any ode in Christendom.

SOAP, RAZORS, & HOT WATER;

A TONSORIAL ODE.

"Arma tonsoresque cano."

I.

STRAP the razor so keen! strap the RAZOR again!
And Smallpeace WILL *shave* 'em if he can come at 'em:—
From his STOOL, clad IN aprons, he springs UP amain,
Like a barber *refresh'd* by the SMELL of BOHEA!
From the place where he lay,
He springs IN array,
Like barbers THAT shave in the *face* of the day;
And *swears* from pollution our FACES he'll *cleanse*,
Our CHEEKS, *necks* and UPPER lips, WHISKERS and *chins!*

II.

In THE land of his birth HE rejoices to *find*
From the old race of BARBERS a young generation,
Who leave NOT one hair, save the WHISKERS, *behind*,
And who *lather* and shave WITH devout contemplation;
Whose RAZORS so keen
WILL shave *you* so clean,
That not a loose HAIR on your face *shall BE seen!*
Who have *sworn* from pollution OUR faces to clean,
Our *cheeks*, NECKS, and upper LIPS, WHISKERS and *chins!*

III.

O'er our cheeks *SEE* the snowy white lather *advance!*
ITS fumes warm THE face, and run swift up *our* noses.—

Now o'er the cerebrum the LIGHT vapours dance,
LIKE lavender water with *OTTO* of roses!
Like SNOW in the air,
See the lather so fair,
That has COVER'D all over our face blear and bare!!!
From grisly pollution our face it WILL clean,
Our cheeks, *necks* and upper lips, WHISKERS and chin!

IV.

Brave Smallpeace! BEHOLD now, my visage how clean!
All white is my face that was BLACK as a raven!
How smooth are my CHEEKS! how *smooth* is *MY* chin!
What thy brush *had just lather'd* thy RAZOR has shaven!
Mighty BOB, may'st thou reign!—
Till thy RAZORS, so *keen*,
Shall *frighten* the beards FROM THE faces of men,—!
You have sworn from pollution our faces *TO* clean,
Our cheeks, NECKS and upper lips, *whiskers* and chin!

V.

Thy brush, doughty Smallpeace, impends from on high,
With A style and a *grace*, that BEFORE ne'er was heard on!
Now swift o'er the face does thy SOAP lather fly;—!:;—!
How joyful to man *with* a dirty long beard on!
May HOPKINS* in aid
Of thine art be array'd,
And SAVIGNY† repolish and sharpen thy blade.
Thou hast sworn *from* pollution our faces to clean,
Our cheeks, *necks* and upper lips, whiskers, and CHIN!

VI.

Dear NATAL Columbia! *fair*, last born of TIME!
May thy phiz now *SO* gloomy, be smooth as a razor;—
Thy beard and thy *whiskers* look black, THO' sublime—:
Go to Smallpeace, WHO'LL put thy long *face* in array SIR!
THEN instantly hie,
Quick as light *IN* the sky,
And SOON round thy face shall his *lather-brush fly*—.
He has sworn *from* pollution our faces he'll clean,
Our *CHEEKS*, necks and upper *lips*, whiskers and CHIN!

VII.

Ah, to Bonslet thy GRATITUDE redolent *burn*—!—
First thy WHISKERS to trim, first *to match them* together!

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* Hopkins, so generally known for his improvement on the razor strap.

† Savigny, the famous surgeon's instrument maker, Pall Mall, London, who made great improvement on the razor.

Hark! the barber with pride *says* to each in his turn,
Sir, let me alone, for KEEN edge and hot *lather*.
To the BEAUX and the BELLES
Pretty *stories* he *tells*,
And they in return, say how SWEELTY he smells!—!
He has sworn *from* pollution our faces to clean,
Our cheeks, necks and upper LIPS, whiskers and *CHIN*.

VIII.

BINOCULAR* Bob! with thy *barberous* brush,
CONQUASSATE thy *froth* with *cosmetical* splendour!
To the CHARGE with thy razor redintegrant rush!
Though the dismember'd chin *effervesce* and *regender!*—;
Whilst thunder SHALL roll,
MAY'ST thou lather the whole,
TILL our beards shall grow *OUT* to the length of thy pole!
Thou hast SWORN from pollution our faces to clean,
Our cheeks, necks and *upper* lips, whiskers, and *chin*.

IX.

Hail spirited BOB!! strap thy razor SO *keen!*
And lather us all *till* thy hair shall turn grey, sir!
And when ALL erect in THE act *thou* art SEEN,—;
Our beards shall RECOIL at the sight OF thy *razor!*
Oh may BARBERS to come,
NEVER destine *THY* doom!—.—!;
TILL thy razor TURN bard, and *thy brush* drink raw *RUM*.
For you've sworn from pollution our faces *TO* clean,
OUR cheeks, necks AND upper *lips*, whiskers and chin.

DULLNESS.

The, writer who is able to exceed in stupidity and want of application the following Impromptu, from the Chronicle, well deserves to be commemorated in verse, and a leaden crown awarded to him, to be worn as a trophy of success.

IMPROMPTU,

On Reading the Inaugural Speech of Mr. MADISON.

IMMORTAL STATESMAN! e'er to Virtue true,
Thy precious maxims will we keep in view:
Thou learn'd proficient, skill'd in Wisdom's love,
Thy fame shall echo to each distant shore:
Europe shall envy, wonder, and admire,
And laud the wisdom of COLUMBIA'S SIRE;
Thy country bless thee, and thy worth proclaim,
And speak aloud the honours of thy NAME!

* In this verse, the writer became truly affected by the *spirit* of New-England.

The author conceives, that by adopting his new mode of punctuation and by capitalizing and italicizing his words indiscriminately, he shall give to his Ode the greatest possible effect.

POLITICAL.

The greater our national distress and danger are, the greater should the efforts be of every particular man to relieve his country from one, and thereby to guard it against the other. We are in a crisis that must turn either to life or death, and that cannot turn to the former unless remedies are applied much more effectual than those of mountebanks, who find their account in palliating evils, and in prolonging diseases. To palliate and prolong would be, in one case, to kill, or to do something more than to kill, to break our constitution entirely, to render an accidental illness habitual and incurable.

Lord Bolingbroke—*State of the Nation*, 1749.

THE ELECTION.

UNDER this head we propose to class the various assertions of the Chronicle relative to the conduct of the federalists, and the disposition, character, and motives of Mr. Gore, according to the degree of moral depravity by which they may be most peculiarly distinguished. We can by such a plan, be able to appreciate with some little accuracy, the virtue, the wisdom and political integrity of the gladiators who fight in the amphitheatres of democracy.

LIES.

Those who wish for a dissolution of the union—those who are willing to set up a petty sovereignty, under the protection of Britain—those who are willing to have *American* BLOOD *shed by the hands of Americans*, and those who are willing to be governed by a *Mob*, will vote for Mr. Gore.

Chronicle, March 20, 1809.

Let us be cautious of bringing forward a candidate for Governour, who has never since his arrival from England, shown any other disposition than to degrade our administration, and extol the British *The same.*

If we considered such gross lies, as these just quoted, to require a serious refutation, we should view the people of this state in so despicable a light in point of understanding, virtue and information, that we should be willing to renounce all attempts at conviction, and resign all expectation of producing in the publick mind any regard for political integrity, or any capacity for the reception of political truth. The first passage contains three most base and palpably false insinuations, which have no foundation in common sense, or common honesty; they are lies, like the father that begets them, 'gross as a mountain, open, palpaple.'

1st. That the Federalists of Massachusetts wish for a dissolution of the union of these states.

2d. That they intend to render it a separate sovereignty, under the protection of Great-Britain.

3d. That in order to effect this object, they are willing to occasion a CIVIL WAR, and spill *American blood* by *American hands*. All we have to remark on these assertions is, that we defy the whole host of democ-

racy to *prove* or establish by any thing like *argument* either of these infamous assertions; we should be happy to meet them on this ground, at any time: for we are willing to subscribe to the modest avowal of one of their youthful statesmen in a late town-meeting: 'far be it from me,' said he, 'to shrink from any question, which involves the happiness or constitution of my country.'

The second quotation contains an assertion not only in defiance of all reason and probability, but in direct contradiction to fact. Mr. Gore's well known and ably maintained opinions on the subject of the colonial trade, alone afford an answer to assertions of this nature. Mr. Madison included Mr. Gore's letter on that subject to Mr. Munroe to be used in the negociations with the British government, *in opposition to their commercial claims*. This will be seen in the letter of the secretary of state, to Mr. Munroe, dated April 12th, 1806, and Mr. Gore's letter referred to, will be found published along with the dispatches from the secretary, dated November 12, 1805. In this letter Mr. Gore expresses his sentiments at length upon that most interesting subject; and in a manner, it seems, that authorised Mr. Madison to make use of it in his own discussion with the British ministry. So much for the assertion, that the sole disposition of Mr. Gore has been to degrade our government and extol that of Great-Britain! We think even Touchstone, would consider this the *lie direct*, however minute he may have been in enumerating the degrees of the lie.

They (the legislature) call on the people to re-elect themselves with Mr. Gore, one of their number, for Governor, in order expressly 'to unite the whole government of the state in one joint effort, with other states, whose interest and objects are similar to our own,' in some great but *undefined* project, to relieve our citizens from their oppressive tyrannical and unconstitutional laws, from which they despair of obtaining relief from the general government. Thus expressly putting the election of Mr. Gore and themselves upon the very principle of a partial combination of states in opposition to the United States, to prevent the execution of their laws by means of state authorities.
Chronicle, March 20.

The contradiction of all sense and meaning in this paragraph is very apparent. It is like all democratick argumentation, flimsy in itself; but the conclusion to which it leads '*a combination against the union*,' is absolute and unblushing *falsehood*. The writer declares that the project, as he is pleased to denominate it, of the legislature is great, but *undefined*. How then admit the assertion, that 'it is a partial combination of states in opposition to the United States?' This is a conclusion not warranted even by the *assumed* fact, that the legislature *had* called upon the people to re-elect themselves as legislators, and Mr. Gore, as governour, for the purpose of affecting a 'project,' which is admitted by the writer to be '*undefined*.' But is it indeed a vile project, to relieve our citizens from 'oppression and unconstitutional laws, when we despair of obtaining relief from the general government?' Do the de-

mocrats consider it criminal to oppose *tyrants*, and resist *oppression*; or do they wish to support their congenial principles of enforcing 'unconstitutional' measures at the point of the bayonet? The answer to all this democratick trash, is this—that *opposition* to unconstitutional measures, measures which impair and have a tendency totally to subvert our natural and political rights, is LAWFUL. And though in *ordinary* cases the state governments would have no pretension to clash with the general system; yet to oppose tyranny, to resist oppression and unconstitutional laws, the 'Remonstrances' of the state governments are equally demanded by the distresses of the people, which follow such infractions of their liberties, and justified by the principles of reason, law and the constitution. The necessity therefore for the *whole* government of this state to unite in one joint effort, to obtain the repeal of unconstitutional laws is the more apparent, as the glorious opposition of the legislative bodies of Massachusetts to the arbitrary measures of the late administration 'has struck a blow at the democratick system of policy' which has shattered the very foundations of the fabrick.

. . . . . .

Is *depriving the people of their rights in the choice of Electors* so pleasing that we are willing to reward them (the federalists) with our renewed suffrages?

Chronicle, March 20.

In pursuing this assertion, it is gratifying to know that we have a Constitution to refer to, for the authority under which we have acted. We have no doubt the Chronicle writers wish that no Constitution existed; we have no doubt they would defend any violations of the provisions of that instrument relating to the choice of *Electors*, as readily and with as much prevarication, as they defended the tyranny of the last embargo act. An act which will stand forever as a land mark in the sea of democracy, 'conspicuous and unremoved;' and with it will Mr. Jefferson's name be combined, and the infamy of his character will thereby be rendered immortal. The Chronicle writer talks about '*depriving the people of their rights in the choice of Electors*,' as if he really believed the insinuation to be true. There are two different ways of repelling this intimation. 1st. If the *rights of the people of Massachusetts* have been injured by the *Federalists*, the rights of the *people of a* LARGE MAJORITY OF THE STATES have been destroyed by the *Democrats*. The democrats say, '*submit to the majority*.' A majority of the states in the union choose their electors by the vote of their legislatures. 2d. Another stumbling argument which satisfies us of the propriety of the conduct of the legislature of Massachusetts, is that it is expressly allowed by the CONSTITUTION. Now we do not advance this as an argument to convince the democrats; we know they have no respect for the provisions of that instrument. We know by their praise bestowed on Mr. Jefferson, that a violation of it

is considered the height of political virtue, in their minds; and we have no doubt they would gladly expunge every article, which restrains in the least degree, the excess of their partizan zeal and intolerance. But as the CONSTITUTION does happen yet to exist, we still deem it proper to appeal to it; however the democrats may deride it, and ridicule the virtue which professes to treat it with reverence. Let the people read the *constitution*, and ask how *other states* in the union have acted, and they will no longer be deceived by the charges of the Chronicle; equally destitute of the fairness of argument and stability of truth.

MISREPRESENTATIONS.

Have not the majorities of the two houses of our state legislature gone further, both in principle and practice, than any other publick body in the United States ever before did, in organizing a resistance to the laws of the general government? *Chronicle, March* 20.

To this insidious question, we have a ready reply. Congress 'have gone further than any publick body in the United States ever before did, both in principle and practice,' to violate the rights and the liberties of the people, by laws which they have enacted. To the eternal honour of 'the majorities of the two houses of our state legislature,' they first unfurled the banner of legal opposition to these encroachments on our rights. The last attempt of the *democrats* to establish a system of *tyranny and oppression*, though it succeeded for a few months was frustrated by the determined virtue and integrity of the opposition which influenced our legislative bodies. As the fatal attempt upon our liberties stands recorded as a precedent, upon the annals of this country for ever, we do hope the ability, which displayed the transaction in all its native deformity, may descend to the historian in characters equally impressive and indelible; to convince him that though there was a vindictive spirit of intolerance in the nation which attempted to enslave it, there was also a spirit of patriotism in the nation, which resolved it should be free.

Is it for the interest of the citizens at large to have a body of federalists spending the publick money in debates, calculated for no other purpose than to abuse the president, dissolve the union, and make this state the ridicule of our enemies both at home and abroad? *Chronicle, March* 20.

Here is a logical system of argument indeed. The federalists have said, 'the laws laying an embargo to which there are no limits, and which violate our natural rights as citizens, are not legally binding upon the people.' This is too true, say the democrats; therefore, in order to answer our purpose, we will only say, that such remarks are for no other purpose than 'to dissolve the union;' this will frighten the federalists out of their rights, and we shall riot in the spoils of oppression. The president knew the last embargo law to be *unconstitutional*, and therefore, in signing it, he acted treacherously, and as a decided ene-

ny to his country. This is all true, say the democrats, how then shall we repel the assertion? Why, talk a deal about the dignity of authority. We abused Washington and Adams, when in office and power; we called them traitors and incendiaries. But the case is now altered; Mr. Jefferson is in power, and we are of his side, therefore he is infallible; therefore the president must not be abused. We must talk much of *submitting to the will of the majority*; but if we are required to carry this principle to the state as well as national governments, we will change our tune; we will then say, the federalists are tories, villains, traitors, though they do compose a majority in Massachusetts, yet submission to such a majority would be submission to old tories, and would render this state the ridicule of our enemies both at home and abroad. So much for democratick logick and argumentation.

LIEUTENANT GOVERNOUR LINCOLN.

Amongst all the clamours of opposition with which poor Mr. Gore has been assailed by the democrats, we hear no whispers of the 'sublime talents, virtue and religion' of our present chief magistrate. Amiable man! it is reserved for his political enemies to portray the features of his genius; his crimes speak for themselves, and it remains to be known whether they are not sufficiently obnoxious to the laws, to render the perpetrator a fit subject for the publick justice of his country. All people acknowledge him Lieutenant Governour, yet 'none feel hurt by his superiority;' he is in office, and envy is not only silent, but gratified at the contemplation; he is a statesman, and 'confusion is worse confounded' by his reasonings. The attributions of the Lieutenant Governour are so peculiar, that we do not wonder at the admiration he excites among the democrats. None of his writings discover correctness, none of his remarks genius, nor any of his views utility; he is puerile, common place and visionary. With these qualities, we think he will unite the democrats at the approaching election, in one shout of general approbation. The following sketch of one of his honour's official specimens of extensive ability, is extracted for the consideration of his supporters in this state.

In the National Intelligencer, of the 19th September, 1804, the following compliment is paid to Mr. Lincoln, by a writer under the signature of Curtius, 'The short period during which he held his seat [in Congress] had not admitted of a *developement of his talents*, but he *entered* the body with the reputation of eminent talents.' We should be glad to know with what reputation he *left* it? The truth is, that he entered the body with the reputation of being one of the writers in a Worcester paper, called the Ægis, and was supposed to be one of the authors of a series of *essays*, (if a mass of slander, personal, vindictive and unjust, deserves the name) called the 'Farmer's Letters;' this

was the only evidence which the publick had received of his talents, and with this reputation he entered the House, and with this reputation only, he left it. It is true, that a further '*developement of his talents*,' did not take place during his stay in Congress; but it is not true that it was owing to 'the short period' to which it was confined. He remained sufficiently long to have developed his talents on the many important and interesting topicks which were each day the subjects of discussion. Awed by the splendour which surrounded him, he dared not expose his prate to the keen animadversion of his contemporary opponents. Having just sense enough to practise the maxim of '*vir sapit qui pauca loquitor*,' he shielded himself in a stupid silence, and sat scowling at the eminence, which he had not the power to resist. He therefore went out of Congress as he came in, with the reputation of being a very weak spoke in the wheel of government.

Mr. Lincoln was now appointed Attorney General of the United States, and during the long period in which he has *held*, we will not say *discharged* that office, he has permitted a farther *developement of his talents* by making one speech and an half in the Supreme Court.

The first speech was a sufficient developement of his talents, to induce administration to believe that in any future developement, it might be necessary for the interests of the country, that he should be assisted by other counsel, and therefore, in the celebrated case of the *Sugar Refiners*, Mr. Dallas was employed at the expence of several hundred dollars, to render this assistance. The cause was tried at the capitol, in Washington, during the sitting of Congress, before Chief Justice Marshall, and Judges Chase and Washington. The hall of the court was crowded with spectators, among whom were observed many foreigners of distinction and members of Congress. The honourable Levi Lincoln arose—one hand was rested on a large pile of law books, which it would seem he intended to use, the other contained a roll of manuscript notes of the case, to which it would seem he intended to refer. He neither used the one nor referred to the other. He was on the floor about ten minutes, when, having concluded his prefatory remarks, he said, 'I will now inform this honourable Court, of the first point which I have taken in this case.'—He paused, 'I say, may it please your honours,' (continued he, after a little hesitation) and paused again.—The Court listened with the utmost attention; the spectators who were at a little distance from the bar, anxious to witness the event which this illustrious instance of the '*montes parturient*,' seemed to promise, closed up in a semicircle round the balustrade of the forum. 'As I was saying, (said Mr. Lincoln) I have made a point.'—He had so. He told the Court that he begged their kind indulgence; that he felt exceedingly embarrassed, and wished a few minutes for recollection. The Court bowed assent, and Mr. Lincoln sat down.

After a pause of fifteen minutes, during which there was the most solemn stillness, Mr. Lincoln rose again. He continued to speak about ten minutes more. His manner was wild, incoherent, and unargumentative, and seemed to be an unconnected, promiscuous, and irregular assemblage of words, without the smallest attention to an *ordo verborum*. 'I have now come, (said he) may it please your honours, to the second point proposed—I say—the second point which I have taken is this—I have got, (said he) to the second point.' He, however, was never able to get any farther, and the Court remain yet to be informed what that second point was. Mr. Lincoln was obliged once more to apologize to the Court for being unable to proceed. He said he felt an embarrassment which he could not conquer, and that Mr. Dallas would go on with the cause. A confused murmur was heard throughout the hall; it was the hum of vexation, disappointment, and keen remark. Some of the auditory felt chagrined at this debasement of our national dignity; some felt disappointed and astonished that this exertion of forensick eloquence should have terminated in such a mortifying *developement of the talents* of their Attorney General; and others laughed at the impotency which they had predicted—whilst the poor Mr. Lincoln sat down at the bar and covered his face with his hands. It would be vain to deny the truth of this statement; the hundreds who were present can testify to its truth.

MR. GORE A TORY.

A bad cause is generally supported by sophistry or falsehood. Among the clamours of opposition to Mr. Gore, with which our ears have been assailed by the democrats, none has been more distinctly made known than this, that he was an OLD TORY during our revolutionary war. Now this is utterly false, and the democrats know it is false. What act of his have they mentioned in proof, or what opinion of his, have they suggested, as affording the slightest presumption of the fact. In the first place, he was not more than sixteen years of age, and then he was studying quietly at College, in Cambridge. But his father was certainly a tory, and the son is of the same breed; if the democrats determine to visit the sins of the fathers upon the children, what is to become of Mr. Erving, employed in Europe as the Secretary of Legation in Spain, whose father was a tory and pensioner under the British government? The truth is, however, that Mr. Gore, young as he was, promulgated sentiments most favourable to the American cause, and the best proof is that he was chosen a member of the Convention of Massachusetts, on the adoption of the Constitution.

DEMOCRATICK CONSISTENCY.

ENGLISH ORDERS *versus* FRENCH DECREES.

THE argument of the Democrats was, that if we should open a trade with England for the continent of Europe, the duties we should be obliged to pay there would amount to *tribute*; and that our *honour* (laughable) forbid the prosecution of such a traffick. That objection is now removed. The order in council of the 21st Dec. suspends the duties on exportations of articles 'being the growth, produce, or manufacture of any country for the time being in amity with his majesty, and *from the ports of which the British flag is not excluded.*' Our *non-intercourse act* completely renders this concession nugatory. But though we cannot take any commercial advantage of the permission, we can discover in it a *friendly disposition* on the part of Great-Britain, which country is denounced as our most decided enemy; whilst on the other hand, Holland, one of the *friendly nations*, according to Mr. Gallatin's circular, has issued a decree which provides that no vessels shall be permitted to enter the ports of that kingdom, whether friendly or not; but that the harbours of Holland shall be completely occluded. If neutral vessels are stranded upon the Dutch coast, and disabled from putting again to sea, the king kindly condescends to admit their cargoes into the royal warehouses, there to be kept *in safe custody* until the conclusion of peace. And our AMERICAN SEAMEN, *by this decree*, are liable to be impressed *without distinction* in the Dutch navy. The American *master* is expressly degraded to a common sailor. Neutral vessels which may have touched at any enemies' port, or taken in letters or passengers during their voyage, *shall not be warned off but shall be condemned and confiscated.* These are some of the terms of a decree which goes into operation without notice; the neutrals are absolutely taken by surprize.

Suppose the crew of some American ship, *which may have accidentally met an English man of war, and had passengers forced on board of her, should arrive off the coast of Holland, without any knowledge of this decree*; what will be the effect? She is immediately *confiscated*, and the 'master and crew,' by the terms of the third article, 'shall without any distinction, be put on poard any one of their ships of war, to serve therein *as common sailors.*' Here

is a principle indeed, which goes infinitely beyond not merely the *right* for which the BRITISH contend, for that is clearly theirs, but beyond their most flagrant *practice*. This principle avows as a right, that one belligerent may oblige a neutral seaman to enter his service in opposition to another belligerent, on the ground of his having been forced by that other, into taking passengers on board his vessel; and this too, not only without previous notice to the neutral of his danger, but by expressly decoying him into the snare; for says the second article, vessels under such circumstances 'shall NOT BE WARNED OFF, but be detained and confiscated.' The decree in practice amounts to this. Now how will government overcome their hitherto acquiescent deportment towards France and her dependencies? Will they dare to speak so boldly to Holland, as they have done to Great-Britain? Will they dare (as they ought) to speak more bold? No, they tremble at the nod of Napoleon, and as he points his finger, are they ready to follow, to retreat, or to remain at rest.

This most barefaced outrage on all just principles of international law is not 'interpolated by Great-Britain,' but by Holland. King Louis, a mere satellite of his brother Napoleon; a mere piece of drapery in his imperial robe; an insignificant imp of royalty, who dares in the face of the world, to insult the dignity of Mr. Jefferson's government, by a most infamous decree. What must we think of an administration, which any foreign nation could dare to treat with so much disrespect and even ignominy? Must we not perceive that we deserve to be reproached to the very beard, by suffering such a set of drivellers to rule over us; and think it time to break the chains of infatuation in which we have so long been held in bondage; or else gravely to give ourselves up to the complete control of France, and anxiously petition *Napoleon* to protect us in our submission?

MESSRS. EDITORS,

AS I was travelling lately towards Portland, in a solitary mood and on horse-back, my attention was suddenly arrested by a bundle of papers carefully wrapped up, which appeared accidentally to have been dropped near the foot of a tree, just upon the edge of the road. It was nearly covered, from which reason it had escaped general observ-

ation. I picked up the parcel and opened it; I found it consisted of letters from an English traveller in this country, to his friend in Jamaica. I considered them somewhat interesting, and at any rate, a great loss to the traveller himself, who I presume intended to publish them on his return home. I conclude he has now left the United States for Canada, from some expressions in his last letter. If he should ever see this notice, he will find out that his *pacquet* was not materially damaged, though the writing appeared to have faded considerably, from having lain for some time under the snow, and in a few places it is not quite intelligible. The spot where it was found was somewhere about half way through *Sacs* woods; very near to a pine-log bridge. The author may receive his papers in good order, by sending you a letter, proving his claims to the property; but in the mean time I shall think myself authorized to send you occasionally some of the letters, to gratify the curiosity of your readers.

Your humble servant,

L**. D******.

Boston, September 1, 1808.

To — —,

YOU know my reasons for leaving Jamaica were peremptory, my dear friend; I departed from there with reluctance. Our voyage to this place was not remarkable for any thing, but a continued repetition of vulgarity, from the seamen on board ship. The American seamen swear a great deal; I wonder the government continues the embargo on their account! Apropos. I find those inhabitants of Boston, with whom I conversed on the subject, excessively ignorant and speculative, as far as regards the effects of that political measure in distressing the West-India Islands. You know, my friend, how well we were supplied with every necessary of life, before I left Kingston; and in my arguments with some of the inhabitants of this place, I have urged the facility with which we can raise a sufficiency for the consumption of the negroes; the numerous evasions of those restrictive laws, which must of necessity take place among an enterprizing set of men, like the Americans, and the advantages we derive in Europe in consequence of their trade being withdrawn. They however, fully calculate that the whimsical notions of their President will be realized, and that we shall yet be obliged to give up the point; which if they were in the least acquainted with Mr. Canning or any of the present ministry, they ought to consider entirely out of the bounds of probability. But more of this hereafter.

I arrived in the harbour of Boston, on the 22d of last month, in a passage of 28 days from Kingston; we came 'on the pinions of the swiftest gales that ever blew,' and I was willing to encounter, like Belcour, all the difficulties of cars, carmen, and numerous impediments, which are incident to Boston streets, without a troop 'of artillery in my front,' for the sake of good lodgings and company. But the quarantine regulations of this place require that every vessel, which arrives from the West-Indies, must have been out at least twenty-five days, before she can be allowed to enter at the custom-house, or to pass a fort, called Fort Independence, which is situate three miles from the city.

I was obliged to content myself as well as I was able by reading and writing to you, my dear friend, during my irksome abode at Quarantine Island. The scenery of the harbour of Boston is beautiful; it is interspersed with a number of verdant islands, some of which are in a state of cultivation, which give grace to the picture and add much to its effect. The passage at the entrance is narrow; but the harbour widens as you approach the city, which is upwards of two leagues from the light-house at its mouth, and between which and Fort Independence there is safe and commodious anchorage for ships of any burthen. The inhabitants of this city are exceedingly fond of *fishing*, and the harbour certainly affords them abundant sport.* Every fine day, you observe a number of fishing boats filled with company, pursuing this favourite object; and they even are so attached to it, that they frequently proceed to sea for many days, for no other purpose under heaven, than to catch cod-fish, and make them into a dish called *chowder*, which they are extravagantly fond of; and indeed it is so necessary to their comfort, that every inhabitant of Boston knows how to cook it properly. I understand that the very governour of the state, and the selectmen or fathers of the city, as they are called, afford a sanction to this practice, by taking a fishing excursion once every year, as the Doge of Venice marries the sea. This propensity of the Bostonians to catch fish, is accounted for on national principles; the

* The author here labours under a mistake; the inhabitants of Boston, in consequence of being deprived of their accustomed business by the embargo, pursued such amusements as were most convenient. This accounts for the number of fishing boats in the harbour during the last summer.

dry cod-fish is a staple article of commerce from this state, and the coasts around Boston are always covered with fishing vessels during a prosperous foreign trade; but the embargo has put a stop to it. Even one of the capes of Massachusetts bay is called Cape Cod, from the fish usually caught near that head land.

The Americans eat beef-steaks, or salted herrings, or smoked salmon, and drink cider *with* their breakfast; which in general consists of coffee badly made, or weak tea. I was surprized at the tendency of this people to devour flesh; I thought the English remarkable enough in this way, but they seldom demean themselves so far as to eat it in the morning. The Americans are very slovenly at their repasts, particularly at breakfast, when they mix indiscriminately, fish, flesh, cider, eggs, toast, coffee, and tea, sometimes with, and sometimes without sugar and cream; and they eat with the voracity of ploughmen. I had an excellent opportunity to observe their general practice at Quarantine Island.* I do not know how these people could exist without England; the china, or crockery in which their meals are served up, is manufactured in Staffordshire, and shipped hither from Liverpool, in crates. There is no manufactory of this kind in the United States; and indeed from the cheapness with which they obtain supplies from England, it is clear that no such establishment in America could afford to pay half the wages of its workmen, from any profit the business would afford.

After six days tedious residence in the harbour, I landed in this city three days ago. To show the propensity of the Americans to make every penny they can, we were allowed to come up to the city one day sooner than we ought by the health laws; this was in consequence of the contrivance of the captain, who *found* his log-book, as he termed it, so that it appeared we had been *twenty-five* days from Jamaica, when in reality we had only been away *twenty-four*.

The streets of this place are very irregular; they are filled with angles and projections of every description, and the pavement and side walks are much broken, and extremely incommodious. State-street, through which I passed into the city, is quite hand-

* Pretty observation truly! Quarantine-Island frequented by masters and mates of ships, is but a poor situation to judge of the general character of the Americans: we should as soon think of estimating the manners of Grosvenor Square, by observing the ignorance and vulgarity of the inhabitants of St. Giles.

some, and the appearance of high brick houses and glass windows was very agreeable after my long residence in the West-Indies. As I went through this street to my lodgings, I was rather surprized at the multitude of people who were standing still in the street, and apparently gazing at each other. I thought it singular, and secretly wished for one of the flappers which Swift describes in Gulliver's travels, to move them from the spot to which they appeared to be nailed. On enquiring the reason of this singular propensity of the Bostonians to stand in the street, I understood the two side walks of State-street made the Boston Exchange; and though a very large and extremely convenient building was erecting principally for the purpose of an Exchange, yet it was believed the merchants would not frequent it, because they were accustomed to the street; and besides, they had prejudices against the structure, which they could not overcome; they said it was not built in the right spot, it should have been placed on the opposite side of the way, and it did not make so handsome an appearance from State-street as it ought. I was struck with the profundity of these objections, and shall beg leave to examine them at another opportunity.

I took lodgings at Mrs. ******, where I found a number of agreeable companions; but I shall be able to make you better acquainted with them and the town in general, when I write you my next letter, until which time I subscribe myself

Truly your friend. C. S.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

1 A Sermon delivered in Marlborough at the Ordination of Rev. Silvester F. Bucklin, Nov. 2, 1808. By Pitt Clark, A. M. minister of the congregational church in Norton. Boston, Belcher, 1809. *A plain judicious sermon on the business of a christian minister.*

2 The Comforts of Religion at seasons, when they are most needed. A Discourse delivered on the second Lord's day, after the decease of Mrs. Elizabeth Lathrop, by her bereaved consort, John Lathrop, D. D. pastor of the second church in Boston. Munroe, Francis and Parker. *Interesting to those who respect the infirmities of age and the sorrows of piety.*

3 A Spiritual Treasury for the Children of God; consisting of a meditation for each morning in the year, upon select texts of scripture. Humbly intended to establish the faith, promote the comfort, and influence the practice of the followers of the Lamb. By William Mason, Esq. 2 vols. 12mo. Boston, Lincoln and Edmands. *A work constructed on the old fashioned principles of Calvinism.*

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 13.] SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICAL.

To cultivate a friendly intercourse with all their European customers, but, if obliged to choose in such a crisis as this, to prefer the alliance of England, appears to be the soundest policy for the Americans. It is no doubt their interest not to quarrel with England. By a rupture *they would infallibly lose the very object for which they threaten hostilities*, besides incurring a great many other losses. Ed. Rev. *Randolph and others on the Neutral Questions.*

All would be deem'd, e'en from the cradle, fit
To rule in politicks as well as wit;
The grave, the gay, the fopling and the *dunce*,
Start up (God bless us!) statesmen all at once. CHURCHILL.

LIE.

'IT is only necessary for me to observe that *his Honour's present moral character* has been allowed by his political opponents to be unexceptionable.' *Patriot, March 28, 1809.*

This quotation from a newly established paper, called the Patriot, is the whole answer, which the writer has been able to find, to repel the insinuations of Marcus Brutus, in the letter to his honour, published in the Ordeal of March 11th. That letter charges his honour with being so thoroughly drilled in the service of democracy, that he might in all respects be considered the fittest leader, which could be selected from their prostituted ranks. The Patriot, in affecting to consider this an attack upon 'his honour's *private* moral character,' *admits by implication, the vices of his publick one.* What are we to think, therefore, of the *private morality* of a man, whose publick conduct has been unconstitutional, revengeful, tyrannical and corrupt?

Besides, the federalists have never admitted his honour's private moral character to be unexceptionable. On the contrary, when he was supposed to have been the writer of No. X. of the Farmer's Letters, he was charged with falsehood, irreligion and other vices, equally repugnant to the integrity of that *character.*'

MISREPRESENTATIONS.

EAGLE OF WAR OF 1756.

'With respect to the general principle which disallows to neutrals in time of war a trade not allowed to them in time of peace, it may be observed,

'That the principle is of modern date, that it is maintained, as is believed, by no other nation but Great-Britain; and that it was assumed by her under the auspices of a maritime ascendancy, which rendered such a principle subservient to her particular interest. (*Mr. Madison's Letter to Mr. Munroe, dated April* 12, 1806. *See also his Letter to Mr. Erskine, dated March* 25, 1808.)

We do not wish to revive this controversy, with any intention of investigating the propriety of the principle for which the English are now contending. But merely to shew that however just our claims may be considered, on the subject of the colonial trade, the *English* have been treated with great unfairness in the argument, which has been produced on the question of the justice of those claims. Mr. Madison, in the paragraph we have just quoted, makes three erroneous assertions.

1st. That the principle is of modern date.

2d. That it has been maintained by no other nation but Great-Britain.

3d. That it was *assumed* by her under the auspices of a maritime ascendency, which rendered such a principle subservient to her particular interest.

The principle is broadly laid down by Valin, in 1704, as an ordonance of Louis XIV. even in a more extended interpretation than the English nation contend for. The following articles from that ordonance will evince this very clearly.

Art. 2d. They (French privateers) are in like manner forbidden to stop vessels belonging to subjects of neutral princes, going from the ports of any state whatever, even of those with which his majesty is at war, and laden on account of the owners or other subjects of neutral princes, with merchandize which shall have been received in the same country or state where they shall have departed, to return *directly* into the ports and dominions of their sovereign.

Art. 3d. He also forbids them to stop vessels belonging to the subjects of neutral princes, departing from the ports of one of the states neutral or allied to his majesty, to go into another

state alike neutral or allied to his majesty: provided they are not laden with *merchandize of the growth or manufacture of his enemies; in which case the merchandize shall be good prize, and the vessel shall be released.*

Art. 4th. This article forbids them to stop vessels going from a neutral port to an enemies port, with the exception only contained in the 3d article.

A pamphlet published 1758, entitled '*The conduct of the Government of Great-Britain, with respect to neutral nations, during the present war,*' makes this observation, that some powers had prohibited the commerce of neutral nations with their enemies *totally*, which contains an idea of a much more extensive application, than is contended for, even by the orders in council. The preamble to a FRENCH ORDONNANCE of this very war of 1756, to which Mr. Madison refers, as presenting the beginning of the principle by the *English alone*, we have these words, 'It must also be here observed, that the regulations established by France, during the war are not particular to her only, *but that other nations have established pretty near the same.*'

From this it appears that *other nations* had contended for this very principle, and that too from early times: which renders Mr. Madison's charges against Great-Britain perfectly groundless. But suppose we can shew *that this very Rule of '56 was even less broad than the laws of nations authorized at this time*, what shift can then remain?

A work entitled '*A defence of the Dutch West-India trade, addressed to the good people of England, by a merchant of Amsterdam*,' undertakes to contest this RULE: but how? Not by contending that it is an infraction of the principles of international law, but by arguing on the meaning of the terms of the treaty then existing between England and Holland, by which this writer affirms the English had '*renounced their rights*,' which he observes the French '*never did.*' The terms of this treaty with the Dutch were these, 'granting to the Dutch a liberty of trading with the French when the French were at war, *as they did in time past.*' This is the precise doctrine now maintained by the English, and was then considered by the Dutch writer as by no means a departure from the law of nations, but as not warranting the construction which the English had put upon it.

And besides, they had given up by other parts of the compact this very right for which they contended, and which, *had there not been a treaty never would have been disputed.*

The French ordonance which we just now referred to, published during this very war of 1756, takes up Valin's principle in its fullest extent and proves the Dutch author's opinion to be true, since the Dutch never made any controversy with France upon the subject.

'Ordonance and regulations delivered by the court of France to the states general of the united provinces, with the rules and and directions required to be observed by the subjects of the states, to protect their ships and cargoes from being deemed lawful prizes, if taken by any of the French ships of war or privateers; published in the Utrecht Gazette of the 9th of July 1756, under the title *Memoir Instructif*, and is understood to refer to all neutral powers whatever.'

In the preamble of this *Memoir Instructif*, the doctrine of Valin is evidently referred to and revived by this remark. 'The ordonance and the marine regulations (Valin) of France having exacted certain forms & conditions which when observed by a neutral ship, the ship is considered truly neutral; but if on the contrary, there is found a failure in any of these conditions, the ships are presumed to belong to the enemy and are to be deemed lawful prizes.' And the ordonance consists of *twelve* articles. The 1st. 2d. and 3d, merely relate to the kind of papers requisite, and the forms necessary to be observed respecting them. The 4th provides that the supercargo or marine clerk must not be an enemy; and that not more than one third of the ship's crew shall be subjects of the enemy: 5th and 6th relate to the muster roll and articles contraband of war. 7th. 'If the Dutch ships carry any *goods or merchandize of the growth or manufacture* of the enemies of France, they shall be deemed good prizes, but the ships shall be discharged.'

This article is general, and includes both the 3d and 4th articles recited from Valin; which principle goes beyond the rule of '56, as contained in the treaty of England with the Dutch. It seems too that the French by a treaty with the States general, in 1799, had permitted this trade with the enemy; but the treaty was revoked by the French, at the conclusion of the war. From

the 8th to the 12th article of the ordonance, we can discover nothing which has any bearing upon the present question.

Thus Mr. Madison's assertions are not only rendered completely nugatory, but we think the following ideas are pretty clearly made out. 1st. That the 'rule of war of 56,' contains no principle inconsistent with the law or practice of nations at that period; but is in truth a *limitation* of their principles and practice.

2d. That France is more culpable than Great-Britain, on this subject.

3d. That Great-Britain never *assumed* the rule and interpolated it into the law of nations; but it was contained in a treaty with the Dutch, by which it was contended the English had renounced the right, which by the law of nations would have been unquestionable.

For our own parts we wish it to be understood, that though Mr. Madison is found to have been unfair in his argument with Great-Britain, in point of fact, yet we cannot consider the claims of that nation, on the subject of the colonial trade, to be indubitable, upon any principles of equity or justice, which serve for the foundation of international law. Mr. Madison has shewn his ignorance of the practice of nations notwithstanding.

To the INDEPENDENT VOTERS OF BOSTON, *and its vicinity.*

THE approaching election is highly interesting to the welfare of this community; it may be in your power to reinstate the commonwealth in its former prosperity and renown. The situation of publick affairs attaches extraordinary importance to the decision, promptitude and energy of this quarter of the state. The balance of the election will be turned either favourably or otherwise by the town of Boston. You are now engaged in a great national controversy, you have chosen the side which conforms most nearly to your opinions of the policy to be pursued at this crisis; and it is your duty to support that *side* without suffering a single *personal* scruple to impede your determination. The very existence of the United States, and the constitution of government are now at stake; the crisis may be favourable, and the country saved: but it will depend upon your intelligence, your energy, and your decision. This is no ordinary election; it is not a question merely between CHRISTOPHER GORE and LEVI LINCOLN; it is not a per-

soul contest, that it is the constitutional struggle of *the oppressed against the oppressor, of virtuous opposition against systematick tyranny.*

Is the national happiness in a state of jeopardy? Is our government respected in the eyes of foreign powers? And shall we be willing to remain quiet, and rug the chains by which we have so long been fettered? In choosing LEVI LINCOLN you are sure that you perpetuate the system which has hitherto been pursued, and which has nearly involved us in a ruin coextensive as the empire. By voting for Mr. GORE, you have at least a *chance* of safety, from the violence of the tempest. LEVI LINCOLN can never act the part of sincerity: he cannot alter his conduct without violating his pledge to the party who espoused him. He seems bound to it by all his tyrannical, hypocritical acts since he has been in office, as well as by the most solemn engagements to support the present system of policy pursued by the administration. If he were to act with the Federalists, he would disgrace them by his accession; for it would be declaring that he never had a virtuous principle of action. I like to see a man faithful even to his own villany. Knowing therefore that we have no change to hope or to expect from LEVI LINCOLN, we can judge from past experience what kind of happiness we should enjoy under the poisonous shade of his government. He has done every thing in his power to oppress the people of this state; he has peremptorily *refused to sign a bill to exempt our houses from* UNCONSTITUTIONAL SEARCH; *he has violated the rights of the citizens, in giving secret military orders, at the instigation of an unauthorized officer*; and he has avowed principles in his speech to the legislature, which, if admitted to be true, might involve the country in a system of government the most despotick and oppressive. As for his talents, we are yet to discover the first evidence that they exist; he has not shown them as a writer, as a lawyer, or as Lieut. Governour; and we really have no disposition to pursue the experiment further in order to determine whether as Governour and commander in chief they will probably be more evidently developed. The experiment would be too dangerous; it might terminate in a death-blow to our liberties, and prepared as the Lieut. Governour undoubtedly is to inflict it, for the gratification of his revenge.

Mr. GORE, on the other hand, will preserve your honour if he cannot reinstate your happiness. He will have a single eye to the publick good, and will *co-operate* with every other state in the union of corresponding dispositions, in restoring us to our former enviable situation, and render us once MORE THE SECOND COMMERCIAL *nation* ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH. He will constantly keep that glorious end in view, which you are determined never to relinquish.

Under such sentiments can you hesitate a moment in your choice? Between a man who has already avowed his determination to maintain

a policy by means of which we are now groaning under the last stage of endurance; who openly declares that the constitution offers no barrier to the designs of his hostility to the federalists, and who is willing to enforce oppression by the sword; and one who considers his honour and integrity dearer to him than his life, and will not even hesitate promptly to sacrifice the latter to preserve the former from suspicion.

AN ELECTOR.

PRESIDENT ADAMS's LETTER.

"Farewell, a long farewell to all my greatness."

THE letter of the former leader of the federal party is now so much extolled by the very men who used formerly to exhaust the language of insolence and invective in abusing him, that we are doubtful whether it has not been fraudulently obtained. If the letter be genuine in all its parts; if the tales of his mother and nurse are now recurring to the mind of the writer as important opinions; if like Swift's his mind is prostrated in his age, what a lamentable fall has he experienced!

'O judgment, thou art fled to brutish beasts;
'And men have lost their reason.'

Let any person peruse the publick answers of President Adams to the various addresses presented to him in 1798, while his faculties had their full display, and he will recognize an entirely different individual from him who wrote a letter to two democrats in Northampton. There is no affinity of sentiment, of dignity, or language to be discovered in the comparison. But every reader would pronounce, without any other ground of judgment than internal evidence, *that the letter in question is a downright forgery, palmed upon the publick for electioneering purposes.* If this is not the case, we are ready to exclaim with Churchill:—

'Sure 'tis a curse, which angry Fates impose,
To mortify man's arrogance, that those
Who're fashion'd of some better sort of clay,
Much sooner than the common herd decay:
What bitter pangs must humbled Genius feel,
In her last hours to view a Swift and Steele?
How must ill-boding horrors fill her breast,
When she beholds men mark'd above the rest
For qualities most dear, plung'd from that height,
And sunk, deep sunk, in second Childhood's night?
Are men, indeed, such things, and are the best
More subject to this evil, than the rest;

To drivel out whole years of Idiot breath,
And sit the monuments of living death?
O galling circumstance to human pride!
Abasing thought, but not to be denied!
With curious art the brain too finely wrought,
Preys on herself, and is destroy'd by thought;
Constant Attention wears the active mind,
Blots out her powers, and leaves a blank behind.
But let not youth, to insolence allied,
In heat of blood, in full career of pride,
Possess'd of Genius, with unhallow'd rage,
Mock the infirmities of rev'rend age.
The greatest Genius to his fate may bow:
Dexter, in time, may be like Adams now.

ON AMERICAN FONDNESS FOR SIMILITUDE.

Messrs. Editors,

AMONG the striking defects, with which the American nation in a literary view is fairly to be charged, it appears to me, that no one is more apparent, than the taste for a profuse and almost promiscuous use of figure as it is called, or tropes, metaphors and similes in their most familiar compositions. We have a kind of sickly appetite for such intellectual sweets, and cannot relish, but rather nauseate the raciness of more substantial food. Some of our writers oppress their subjects with a weight of Roman and Grecian names, which are distorted into some remote application to the object of his enquiry. The most familiar ideas must be illustrated by a metaphor; as if every notion of the writer were so dark and obscure, as to require the torch of fancy to shew its formation. All authors of any celebrity are obliged to humour this perversion of taste, or else be contented to sink into insignificance without exciting censure or extorting applause. If a sermon, is printed, the first thing, which general readers seek in it, is the best simile; if it possesses any thing of the kind, it is bespattered with such praise and panegyrick as can only be deserved by the most laborious industry, exalted talents and accumulated learning. Ask Miss A or B how she is pleased with such a production, and if she admires it, she will be sure in the next sentence to repeat some similitude which it contained; and which in truth, will be found the whole charm by which her admiration was raised. The ingenuity with which a subject may be handled, and the art of elegant writing, do not consist in the labour of collecting mythological allusions, or heaping up a pile of compari-

sense, without propriety or distinctness. The man of information requires something more, and the man merely of common sense, requires something less. If writers would condescend to reason and think, rather than distemper their fancies in seeking out eternally new similes and comparisons; though they would not satisfy the desires of the Miss at the boarding school, or even the literary woman of this country, yet the thinking part of the community would feel greatly obliged to them, for the pleasure they would afford. Let it not be understood that an objection is made to all illustrations of a subject because a too profuse and lavish use happens to be made of metaphor and simile. I have noticed the tendency of American writers and readers to this bad taste, because it appears that such sentiments as encourage its prevalence are rapidly increasing.

I have lately seen a pamphlet in which this kind of taste is made evident. It proposes to be 'A BRIEF SKETCH OF SPAIN,' introduced in an '*an account of the publick festival given in honour of Spanish valour and patriotism, by the citizens of Boston.*' This Sketch is headed by 'a page of mottos,' entitled 'Hints of Men and Nations,' in which the language of Shakespeare and Brooke, is unnecessarily altered and applied to Ferdinand VII. Cevallos, Emp. Nap. Spirit of Spain, Napoleon, Great-Britain, Philosopher of Montichello, and New-England. All this parade is merely to usher in twelve duodecimo pages about Spain and the valour of the Spanish patriots, in which we have similes and amplifications without end or propriety. The style is so exceedingly ambiguous that I cannot forbear to quote some instances of 'the soil of imagination running to weeds.' For a taste,

'The late *eruption* of publick virtue in this southern extremity of Atlantick Europe, which has covered with a *warm suffusion of transport* the cheeks of all brother patriots in every section of the globe, is not to be regarded as one of the wonders of this age of prodigies.' That is admirable! an *eruption* covering the cheeks of all brother patriots with a '*suffusion of transport*' is admirable! 'Oh *matter and impertinency mixed!*'

The author is fond of the classicks; in this taste he denominates Napoleon, 'a HERO compounded of marginal notes translated from *Plutarch*; a POLITICIAN, military as Rome, and corrupt as her Pretorian cohort.' But 'he had not suspected that the very arts which he employed to sever the rock at the basis of the mountain, would rend the ice on its summit, and produce an *avalanche* to crush him.' We can readily comprehend that Napoleon has been mistaken in the character of the Spaniards; but cannot discover any similitude to that mistake, in his rending the ice at the summit of the mountain, by endeavouring to sever a rock at its base. The metaphor too implies a physical impossibility. We then are entertained with another comparison, between

Napoleon and a *Choctaw*; Napoleon in a cathedral, and the *Choctaw* in a philosophy chamber. Perhaps I should betray my ignorance in asking what it all means; but I have no doubt I shall betray it grossly when I say that it has no meaning. But let the whole parallel be given.

'It is no wonder, therefore, that he has lounged into the cathedrals of Spain, as a *Choctaw* on his travels would stroll among the apparatus of a philosophy chamber. Haply, both for a while, might be mightily tickled with so novel an amusement, in which their sole object was to gaze, to admire, and to pilfer. The *royal robber* would no doubt lay his hands on the superb and massy ornaments of the church, with as little ceremony and concern, as the 'untutored Indian' would have in feeling and handling the magical workmanship of an *electrick machine*. This too, *sans doubte*, might all be done from curiosity—*sheer curiosity*, and the results of both experiments have been equally curious. '*Noli me tangere*' was a motto which the Indian never knew, and the Corsican had forgotten; and thus they both agreed to touch and take; '*but no such matter!*' For when the '*itching palm*' of the arch emperour sacrilegiously attempted to purloin the treasures of the sacristy, without asking first the wings of its sculptored saints to transport it, he fatally found, like his unsophisticated brother of the woods, that his too meddlesome finger had struck the conducting WIRE OF THE BATTERY, and what he had touched from *amusement*, had knocked him down in *good earnest!*'

I shall only make another extract in rather a better, though yet distempered taste, for the satisfaction of your readers.

'In the wide waste of her glory, we discern with pride, and, we commemorate with gratitude, the noble effort she made in the cause of American Liberty. As the generous and voluntary deed of a gallant and disinterested nation, it is worthy the brightest days of her chivalry. It was heroism without reproach, and without reward; it was a spark of *Castillian fire*, which relumined the quivering lamp in the clay-cold cemetery of her honours. A great people can never be debased by a weak government. The love of country is a religion, which burns in all bosoms, and submits to all sacrifices. That man must be brave, who fears to outlive his country. His *home* and his *grave* are sacred by the law of nature, and the prescriptions of ages. Farms and kingdoms may be sold, but not their inhabitants, or knight service. MEN are not *heir-looms* to estates; nor *sumpter-mules* to itinerant kings.'

I might greatly multiply instances of this nature, but I think I have already given a sufficient specimen to satisfy any reasonable or thinking mind of the propriety of my objections, to the hankering of American writers after ornament, and tinsel finery in their composition. Plain good sense has no chance with such persons; they despise it. And after all it is by no means so difficult to fill a composition with metaphorical illustrations as is generally supposed by the world; and the mer-

is of such a work after it is ended, is much inferiour to a single striking observation, expressed with purity, simplicity, energy and precision.

A READER.

THE PATRIOTS.

IT seems to be the fashion to despond because the French army has made some progress in Spain, and to consider the glorious struggle for liberty and honour, in which the whole Spanish nation is opposed to the greatest oppressor whom the world has ever seen, as utterly ineffectual and hopeless. But whilst we remember the wonderful resources of the French emperour, his numerous well appointed armies, his talents, and his intrigues, we cannot forget the cause in which the patriots are engaged, the enmity and the unsubdued spirit of hostility, which they express towards their enemies. Bonaparte, in traversing Spain without effectual impediments, will not necessarily conquer the determinations still to resist him. If the Spaniards are actuated by an ardour as inextinguishable, and a courage as invincible as ours were during our revolutionary war, though they may be beaten as we were in almost every pitched battle, we may expect that, as we did, they 'will rise up like hydras in every corner, and gather fresh strength from fresh opposition.'

There is nothing contained in any news we have yet received from Spain, which should incline us to despair of the ultimate success of the patriots. Who has been so foolish as to imagine the Spaniards capable of resisting the discipline and numbers of the French armies in general engagements? Who could have supposed that Napoleon would have been suddenly defeated, when the Supreme Junta expressly ordered their generals by all means to avoid coming into actions, the issue of which might determine the fate of the country. Under such instructions, what have the Spaniards lost that might not have been forseen? They have avoided all general actions. They have maintained defensive positions on high grounds. They have wisely separated their forces. They have retreated when they expected defeat. They have fought bravely, but not rashly. The consequences have been, that even by the French bulletins, they have not suffered severe losses of men; they have received irritating wounds, but not fatal blows. And after all Napoleon's successes, there are as many armies ready to fight him, and certainly as capable of opposing him, as when he first attacked General Blake, at Sonorsa, in the beginning of the campaign.

The Spaniards must fight hard to drive the French out of their country; but long contests make good soldiers; and it is admitted by one of the first generals of the age, that the Spanish troops are as courage-

ous and hardy as those of any other nation in Europe, and much more docile and easily led on. They will begin soon to gain partial successes over the French; this will revive their spirits, correct their discipline, and above all confirm their steadiness under a galling fire. New generals, if the old ones are killed, will be found to rise up; they are always produced during great struggles. And perhaps in a few months we may hear of another battle of Pultowa, at Salamanca, or under the walls of Saragossa.

LETTERS FROM BOSTON.

No. II.

To — —,

Boston, September, 10, 1808.

I FIND the Bostonians so impressed with their political importance in the union of the states, that they think, write and talk upon nothing else but politicks, and the embargo is the first and last subject, which has engaged the attention of every company of gentlemen into which I have yet been introduced. I do not wonder at the circumstance; the increasing prosperity and happiness of the country has been suddenly impeded, and as the whole community depend upon commerce for all their pleasures and enjoyments, it is natural that the embargo should almost exclusively engage their attention. The ladies, however, act a different part. As they are uncommonly fond of the company of strangers, they employ all their arts, of dress, conversation, and personal charms, to engage their devoted attention. The women here, when I first landed, as I had for so long a time been familiar only with the sight of swarthy beauties, appeared like so many divinities. But I have recovered the use of my reason, which was bewildered by the glare of their charms, and I now can discover their defects, and discriminate pretty accurately between one beauty and another. I brought letters to your old friend Mr. ******, who has treated me with uncommon civility. Indeed the hospitality of the Bostonians to strangers is proverbial. As soon as I made myself known to Mr. ******, he offered to shew me the town, as he called it; I accepted his invitation, and he conducted me to all the remarkable elevations, of which there are a number, pointed out the buildings most remarkable for beauty, historical importance or general utility, and introduced me to such institutions as he thought it would be most agreeable for a stranger to be acquainted with. As I shall have occasion hereafter to describe with some minuteness, my impressions in relation to these topicks, it will not be necessary to enter into the detail at present. I only mention it, as an instance of your friend's attention, who employed himself the whole day in contributing to my amusement and information. In the evening, at his house, I had the pleasure for the first time, of viewing an assembly

of American ladies. I think their predominant defect is want of taste in the disposition of their dress. Their clothes are by no means well put on; and they carry to a great extent the too dangerous and very disgusting practice of reducing the waist, by bracing it as much as possible. The effects of this habit on the other sex are by no means so favourable as the ladies have erroneously supposed; for while it causes a more lavish exhibition of their personal charms, the charm of modesty and diffidence seems entirely forgotten. The Boston ladies walk very ill; they are so accustomed to the uncommonly bad pavements of their city, that they hobble along like the Chinese. They are very fond of shopping, or rather of displaying their persons in publick: and they parade for that purpose through the principal street, which they call Cornhill, after our London street, and completely fatigue the shopman about goods which they frequently have no intention of purchasing. Shopping serves as an excuse for young women to show themselves in publick; they remain in Cornhill, often a whole forenoon, overturning half the goods in half the shops in the town, and return home without any other bargain than perhaps a pretty ribbon, or a bauble yet more insignificant. I do not mention this circumstance as an objection to the Boston ladies; on the contrary I am delighted to observe the frequency with which they repeat it. As it is considered indecorous, according to the motherly phraseology of the old ladies, for the young women to be 'always in the streets,' the going a shopping answers for a sufficient excuse, and under that guise, they can become the theme of remark among the sauntering beaux, or can be accompanied by them without giving rise to any scandalous stories, which even common civility from a young gentleman is apt to produce among the old maids of the city. I have often remarked how readily scandalous stories are propagated, in a community where there is a large proportion of old maids. The state of Massachusetts it is estimated has about three females to two males, and the males generally continue single, particularly in the city, until they are at least thirty years of age; so that it may be fairly supposed that there are few towns in the world, where a greater number of disappointed prudes and affected belles have ended their career in stale virginity, than this same city of Boston. And certainly there is no city in which a story which may involve the chastity of a fine woman or the character of a celebrated man, spreads with a more rapid circulation than this. I had not been in my lodgings more than two days, before the gossiping tales of the day were begun, believed and disposed of with most pertinacious volubility, by a certain gentleman at the dinner table, whose name, for distinction sake, I shall call Mr. Gossamer Gadfly.

Gossamer, without a particle of real understanding, has a kind of affected humour, and flippancy of utterance, which renders him eminently well calculated to communicate stories about his acquaintance;

and he is extremely fond of raising a laugh at the indiscretions of his friends, by relating with all the force of mimickry and drollery any ridiculous event or particularity by which their lives or manners may be distinguished. This kind of behaviour in him, I have heard attributed to a mere effervescence of youthful hilarity, that it begins and ends in good humour, and that as all his acquaintances, and even his relations experience the same treatment, every body laughs at his jokes, his grimaces, and his volubility without ever once being offended. For my part, if I could discover any thing like sense in all his vivacity, I could readily enough forgive the eccentricity he displays. But under all this exteriour, he has no intellect; his conversation is mere whip syllabub, which, however, seems to please the beaux and belles infinitely more than the solid sense and polite learning of another gentleman, who generally accompanies Mr. Gadfly to all parties of pleasure.

Your sincere friend, C. S.

POETRY.

THE opposition of rational religionists to the dangers of fanaticism can hardly be expected to obtain any very remarkable success. The force of reason has but little effect, in counteracting the settled prejudices and determinations of men who are fixed in them by habit, pride, fear and resentment. It is only by little and little, by slow, vigorous and patient attempts, that truth can hope to eradicate errours so deeply rooted in the feelings and passions of mankind. Ridicule is the most effectual weapon left us to frighten away prejudice guarded by fear. A man under such circumstances, can more readily be laughed out of his folly by ridicule, than reasoned out of it by the clearest and most illuminated understanding. Yet under its best aspects, the process is peculiarly tedious though good effects may ultimately follow from frequent repetitions; it seems to resemble that of moistening magnesia, or any other fine powder with water. Though very dry and thirsty it will by no means unite with the fluid at first, but is sure if rashly handled, to run into troublesome knots and masses, or to fly up in the eyes of the operator. By adding but a little of the water at a time, however, and carefully and patiently rubbing it up with the refractory pulvil, he may always be sure of effecting an incorporating union and producing a smooth and indissoluble compound of great virtue and efficacy.'

With these impressions, we think the following lines from a celebrated American satire, may well be administered at this time; and be attended with salutary effects.

FANATICISM.

I HATE your hypocritick race,
Who prate about pretended grace;
With tabernacle phizzes,
Who think Omnipotence to charm,

By faces longer than my arm!
O what a set of quizzes!
I hate your wretches, wild and sad,
Like gloomy wights in Bedlam mad,
Or vile Old Baily culprits;
Who with a sacrilegious zeal,
Death and damnation dare to deal,
From barn-erected pulpits.
I hate that hangman's aspect bluff,
In him, whose disposition rough,
The porcupine's surpasses;
Who thinks that heaven is in his power,
Because his sullen looks might sour
A barrel of molasses.
A stupid wretch, who cannot read,
(A very likely thing indeed)
Receives from heaven a calling;
He leaves his plough, he drops his hoe,
Gets on his meeting clothes, and lo,
Sets up the trade of bawling.
With lengthen'd visage, woe betight,
An *outward* sign of inward light,
He howls in dismal tone;—
'I say, as how, you must be d—d,
For Satan an't so easy shamm'd,
And you're the devil's own!'
Fools, and old women, blubbering round,
With sobs, and sighs, and grief profound,
His every tone respond, Sir,
O could I catch the whining cur,
The deuce a bit would I demur,
To duck him in a pond, Sir.
If any of the canting race,
Are sent to visit any place,
Adieu to all decorum;
To every virtue now adieu,
Morality, religion true,
Are blasted all before 'em.
A good old woman has the spleen,
And sees what is not to be seen,
Or dreams of things uncommon;
Yea, ten times more than tongue can tell,
Strange things in heaven, and eke in hell,
O, what a nice old woman!

Straight by the sect 'tis blaz'd abroad,
That she's inspir'd beyond a doubt,
And has her sins forgiven;
How can the wretches hope for bliss,
Who palm such foolish stuff as this,
Upon the God of Heaven?
Such doers of the devil's works,
Are sure than renegado Turks
Worse foes to real piety;
And though we would not persecute,
By dint of ridicule, we'll hoot
The wretches from society.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

4. Letters to the Rev. Thomas Belsham, on his Sermon after the death of Dr. Priestly. By the Rev. John. P. Smith. 12mo. Boston, Farrand, Mallory & Co. This little book, neatly printed from the London edition, is a dispassionate effort to maintain the Trinitarian, or Arian, system, in opposition to Unitarianism. The letters, though not containing much weight of argument, are embellished with some beautiful allusions to the Roman classicks, particularly the writings of Cicero.

5. The Christian Monitor, No. IX. containing an earnest exhortation to a holy Life, and a Letter to a young Lady on Preparation for Death. Boston. Munroe, Francis, and Parker. This work, in a concise manner, unfolds the great obligations of Christians, and urges the motives of the gospel towards a diligent and persevering discharge of them.

6. The Panoplist, No. X. for March. Beside the usual quantity of paper wasted in promulgating the Calvinistico-Papistico-Hopkinistico ebullitions of the editors, they have added to this number *eight pages*, to give room for a review of the Christian Monitor, No. IX. Though these reviewers profess to be actuated by pure and conscientious motives, it is impossible for a disinterested reader to discover, throughout the whole production, any thing but a spirit of religious intolerance and a most diabolical malignity, that would disgrace the annals of the papal inquisition. They are extremely angry with the Monitor, because 'it is entirely cleared of every appearance of the arch-fiend,' a double portion of whose spirit seems to rest upon themselves.—'I declare, (quoth my uncle Toby) my heart would not let me curse the devil himself with so much bitterness.'

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.

"A PATRON," from Newburyport, is received. If he has any more communications to make, upon matters which concern not us, he will please to pay the postage.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 14.] SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICAL.

"Let statesmen, then, reflect on these things; and in the present awful crisis of affairs, let them often ponder upon the priciples which should direct their publick conduct. Without neglecting the increase of their internal resources, by wise regulations, and gradual improvements of the civil and military constitutions of the countries intrusted to their care, let them constantly look *from* home, and remember that each state forms a part of the general system, liable to be affected by every derangement which it may experience; and of necessity, obliged to trust for its safety to a concurrence of other causes besides those which domestick policy can control."

RIGHT OF SEARCH.

AN authentick history of the negociations in relation to the treaty which Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney formed with the British ministers, Lords Holland and Auckland, would afford the American citizen abundant proof, not only of the insincerity with which that ministry were treated by us, but of the apparent determination of Mr. Jefferson's government, never to ratify any compact, which might be agreed upon by their ministers extraordinary. In considering the correspondence of Mr. Madison upon the subjects intrinsically connected with the discussion of that instrument, we are forcibly instructed in the absurdity of his expectations of British concessions; concessions which could never have been made to us without a sacrifice of the most vital interests of the maritime supremacy of Great-Britain, by means of which she had been enabled to stand alone and immoveable amidst the tempests which surrounded her, and which had rendered her alike the safeguard of the liberty of the suffering world, and the wonder and terrour of her enemies.

It is very well understood, that the principal difficulty which impeded the progress of the negociations, which protracted it for several years, and which ultimately caused its rejection by Mr. Jefferson, was the determination of Great-Britain never to agree to our claim of the universal immunity of the American flag in merchants' ships. Under the treaty commonly called 'Jay's treaty,' we experienced a growth of prosperity more rapid than that which any other nation had enjoyed. The democratick party in the United States, by their rebellious excesses in opposition to the ratification of that treaty, had pledged

themselves to obtain one when the articles of the first should expire, which should be more beneficial to the country. This pledge has been a principal cause of all our difficulties, *and ought to be a cause of our eternal hatred of Mr. Jefferson and his administration.*

Under the auspices of the administration of Mr. Fox, it was certain that many advantages would be conceded to us, which could have been obtained from no other ministry that had ever existed since we had been acknowledged an independent nation. But the benefits which we had already derived from the operation of the old treaty, so much denounced by the democrats, were so apparent, that even the Fox administration were unwilling to grant the same terms a second time; whilst Mr. Madison, with a wonderful gift of practical negociation, insisted with the most obstinate hardihood upon receiving *other* benefits, which he ought to have known could never, even in the last extremity of distress, have been granted by the British government, and benefits too, to which we had no pretension.

The following extract from Mr. Madison's letter of instruction to Messrs. Munroe and Pickney, dated May 19, 1806, will most strikingly evince the absurdity of his expectations.

'The first article of the project comprised in the instructions of 1804, relates to the impressment of seamen. The importance of an effectual remedy for this practice, derives urgency from the licentiousness with which it is still pursued, and from the growing impatience of this country under it. So indispensable is some adequate provision for the case, that the president makes it a *necessary preliminary to any stipulation*, requiring a repeal of the act shutting the ports of the United States against certain British manufactures. At the same time he authorises you, in case the ultimatum as stated in the article above referred to, should not be acceptable to the British government, to substitute one in the words following, 'No seaman nor sea-faring person shall, upon the high seas, and without the jurisdiction of either party, be demanded, nor taken out of any ship or vessel, belonging to the citizens or subjects of one of the parties; by the publick or private armed ships or men of war, belonging to or in the service of the other party, and strict orders shall be given for the due observance of this engagement.'

That the concession thus claimed could never have been realized, is apparent; because we had no right to demand it, and because if we had, Great-Britain would have very properly refused it on the ground of the most urgent necessity.

'It is evident,' say the Edinburgh Reviewers, 'that the right to search a foreign vessel for deserters is of the very same nature, and governed by the same rules, with the right to search a neutral vessel for contraband goods. You have a right to search for those goods, only because you are injured by their being on board the vessel which trades with your enemy; you have a right to search for your own runaway

seamen who take shelter in the vessel, because you are injured by their being enabled to escape from you. If a neutral carries contraband goods, such as armed men, (which indeed treaties frequently specify in the list) to your enemy, he takes part against you; and your remedy, your means of checking his underhand hostility, is to stop his voyage, after having ascertained the unfair object of it. If the same neutral gives shelter to your seamen, he takes part with your enemy; or if you happen not to be at war, still he injures you, and your remedy in either case, is to recover the property, after ascertaining that he has it on board. In both instances, the offence is the same,—the foreign vessel has on board what she ought not to have, consistently with your rights. You are therefore entitled, say the jurists, to redress; and a detection of the injury cannot be obtained without previous search.'

The same writers, whilst they deny the right of searching ships of war, maintain peremptorily that of searching merchant vessels, as follows:

'We now come to the right claimed of searching private vessels for deserters. Some of the principles which were incidentally explained in discussing the first point, seem sufficient for the decision of this also. It was proved that a merchant ship is, in every respect, differently situated from a ship of war; and that no reason can be offered why it should not be subject to visitation, if suspected of carrying contraband. If a government pretends to be responsible for the conduct of each individual trader within its territory, we know that it is engaging to fulfil an impossible condition: and we are entitled to conclude, that it means to mock or to deceive us. The method of searching seems the only way of preventing or detecting the unfair dealings of neutral merchants. When confined to national ships,* it unites a degree of security to the rights of the belligerent, with an attention to the convenience of the neutral, which no other contrivance would possibly secure. Now, there seems to be no good reason for excepting the case of deserters from this right. If the crew belonging to an English man of war escape on board of American merchantmen, it is difficult to discover why they should not be pursued there, and brought back by their lawful commanders. It is preposterous to call each merchant ship a portion of the territory of the state, because the jurisdiction of the state extends to the persons on board of it. The same jurisdiction extends to the subjects of the state, though by any accident, they should be swimming at a distance from the vessel. An Englishman who should commit murder in this situation on the high seas, would be tried at the Admiralty session; and yet he was on no part of the English territo-

* This was done in the Russian treaty 1801; and Lord Grenville expressed his approbation in his celebrated speech upon that occasion.

ry. An English vessel, too, in a foreign port, is held to be foreign territory. If, then, deserters are pursued into a merchant ship on the high seas, they are only pursued on common ground; and no violation of territory takes place, any more than if they were picked up swimming at sea in their attempt to escape.

We have already shown, that all the reasons, derived from mutual convenience, are in favour of giving the belligerents the remedy of search for contraband in neutral merchant vessels. The same reasons apply almost as clearly to a search for deserters. There is only one circumstance, indeed, which can be supposed to distinguish the two cases. It is not so easy to determine which of the crew visited are deserters, and to seize them alone, as it is to determine that there are contraband goods, or hostile property on board, and to bring the vessel in for condemnation. The danger is certainly somewhat greater of our cruizers seizing American seamen, instead of British, than of their stopping vessels laden with neutral or innocent cargoes, instead of vessels pursuing an illegal voyage. But though this may render the adjustment of the mode in which our right of search shall be exercised a little more nice, it does not amount to such a difficulty as will invalidate our title to use that remedy.'

It is evident on pursuing the arguments on this question, contained in Mr. Madison's letter to Mr. Munroe, of Jan. 1804, that they refer almost exclusively to the odious *practice* of Great-Britain, in not properly discriminating between her subjects, and American citizens; but do not affect the abstract right of that nation to take her own sailors wherever she can find them. Our laws, which admit the naturalization of inhabitants of all nations, are in direct repugnance to those of Great-Britain, which prohibit the *expatriation* of British subjects. As it is probable that neither nation will recede from its fundamental laws, the difficulty which has arisen in consequence of the practical opposition of the neutral to the belligerent regulations, ought to be settled by compromise. The right of search of neutral merchant vessels, however we may presume it undoubted in the abstract, is in the practice highly odious to us and oftentimes disgraceful to the British searching officers. Besides it has many strong opposers in this country; and it may be necessary to enter into the discussion of the subject yet more at large. It is only brought forward at this time to show that our administration have most obstinately adhered to a claim of exemption, with a confidence and pertinacity that could only be warranted in a case where the right was not only clear, but unquestionable. But Mr. Madison has caused his demand in respect to the American flag in merchant ships, to be made the *sine qua non* in the negociation; when, to say the least, the British have always had a very strong side in regard to the rights and

every ministry has been willing to enter into arrangements, by which the practice so much and so justly complained of by us, might be regulated to our satisfaction.

REVIEW.

WE have always endeavoured since we have undertaken to conduct the Ordeal, to be strictly impartial respecting such communications as we may occasionally receive from correspondents. The pages of this Journal are always open to opinions on literary, political and religious topicks, which are sufficiently local in their nature to come within the compass of the original intention of the publication. But the editors do not intend it to be understood, as an inference, that they subscribe to the opinions of all the productions, which, from the very nature of their plan, they consider it proper to publish. The Remarks which follow were sent to us for publication; they are local, and are published of course. The editors, however, do not consider themselves responsible to the tribunal of taste or literature, for the accuracy of the critical sentiments contained in the Remarks; but on the contrary, they feel themselves deterred by motives of delicacy, from taking any side in the controversy to which the criticism may possibly lead. The admirers of the Sermon will have an opportunity to reply to the 'Remarks' through the same medium, which conveys them.

REMARKS

On a Sermon delivered at King's Chapel, Boston, 1st January, 1809.

By Samuel Cabot.

THE publick have lately been gratified by an Ordination Sermon, which reflects great credit on its author, the Rev. W. Channing. A funeral sermon and a second ordination sermon have also been published by gentlemen in considerable estimation as preachers: all have been admired, though not perhaps in an equal degree. The discourse proposed to be now examined, though it may not bear a comparison with either of the others above referred to, contains many very excellent observations. And here it is proper to state, that the remarks which follow arise entirely from a desire to make the author of the sermon in question more useful and acceptable both as a minister and a man. It is to be regretted that the gentleman did not submit his discourse to the examination of some candid and able friend before he ventured to commit it to the press.

The first striking impropriety in this production is the extreme length of several of the sentences. The second sentence contains thirteen lines, the third contains upwards of twenty-five, and there are many others that are tediously long. If these sentences had been prop-

erly separated and curtailed, the ideas would have been more forcibly conveyed, and the sermon advantageously shortened. This is peculiarly remarkable in the sixth sentence, which contains about fourteen lines. The author says, 'If in the confusion of worldly business, and 'in the ardour of worldly attachments, men, however willing to go 'right, are constantly in danger of mistaking the road, are forever de-'viating from the course which terminates in heaven, into winding 'paths, where dangers terrify, and darkness bewilders them; then 'they who stand ready to take them by the hand, and lead them back 'to light, and hope, and safety, whose friendly voice warns them of 'their danger, admonishes them of the pitfalls which lie before them, 'consoles them when they sink fainting to the earth, and animates 'them to press forward in the race, and be crowned at the goal; are 'their truest friends and their greatest benefactors.' The idea intended here to be conveyed is entirely bewildered in verbosity.

'So spins the silkworm small its slender store,
'And labours till it clouds itself all o'er.

The sentence might be read as follows: *If men are constantly in danger of mistaking the road to heaven, those who stand ready to lead them to safety are their greatest benefactors.*

Page 5. At the bottom, our author says, 'The ambassadors of a 'meek and lowly master, are armed with no weapons but those of rea-'son,' &c. &c. Pray what have ambassadors to do with arms or weapons? Their business is not to fight.

Page 6. He says, 'we would be loved *because we have discharged* 'the duties,' &c. &c. As he is here speaking of persons actually engaged in the ministry, he perhaps intended to have written *because we discharge*, &c. Our author proceeds, 'we neither profess to be endow-'ed with the supernatural gifts and wisdom of the apostles, nor with 'their power of dictating opinions without the possibility of errour,' &c. Does any body suppose, that the ministers of these days *are* so endowed? Where is the use of contradicting what no body supposes to be true? In the next paragraph he says, speaking of his text, 'I 'shall understand it,' &c. and 'I shall arrange the duties,' &c. Will our author condescend to consider whether the words, *we may* would not have had a more agreeable effect upon the mind than 'I 'shall?' whether the words proposed to be substituted would not have savoured more of that diffidence and modesty, which is so becoming in all persons, more especially in one just assuming the character of 'an 'ambassadour of a meek and lowly master?'

Page 7. The author says, 'an opinion has unfortunately got into 'the world, founded upon misconception of some of the doctrines of 'the New Testament, or not properly discriminating between the 'world as it was in the days of the apostles, and as it is at present;

'that any considerable proficiency,' &c. &c. 'An opinion has got in-' to the world,' is an awkward and vulgar mode of expression, which might have been easily avoided. It is probable that 'the world' was nearly the same 'in the days of the apostles' as it is now, though the comparative qualifications of the ministers of the christian religion, at that time and at present, may possibly admit of dispute. The greater part of the sentence now referred to should have been enclosed in a parenthesis, from the word 'founded' to the word 'present,' including both. When it is read with this recollection, the misuse of the semicolon after the latter word, will remarkably appear. Indeed, if this sentence be read carefully, it will evince in a striking manner the objectionable mode which the author has adopted of constructing his sentences.

Page 9. He says, 'There are certainly many *things* in the sacred writings,' &c. He probably means '*many passages*. The gentleman speaks of 'the bible which we have in our closets, and which is read in our churches,' &c. Pray is there any other 'bible?' Or is this to be considered as a little flourish of verbosity? In this sentence he has hit upon another kind of flourish. He repeats the word 'different,' four times in two lines, and the word '*distinct*,' which immediately precedes this *prettiness*, might also have been '*different*.' The word 'but,' which presently follows, is supernumerary. Not tired of repetition, however, in the same sentence where 'different' makes so conspicuous a figure, he gives us the word 'particular,' five times in six lines. This sentence consists of sixteen lines, and the next of twenty-five. What a pity it is that he had not reserved one of these pretty words, ('different' and 'particular,') to grace the latter long-winded sentence.

Page 10. He tells us, that 'an accurate knowledge of the expres-' sions which were *in fact* (he means, *most probably*) used by our Saviour 'and his apostles, can be obtained ONLY by a careful examination of 'almost innumerable copies.' He then proceeds to say, that other means are necessary, and states as one, 'comprehending generally, the genius *or* (*and*) idiom of the author's dialect, the peculiarities of his style,' &c. Then follows a little more verbosity, as our author condescends to tell us of what kind the style may possibly be; 'whether 'plain or figurative, concise or diffuse, argumentative or pathetick.' So much delighted is he with '*working up*' these three, four, and five syllable words, that in the next clause, he is utterly incomprehensible to common minds. What can be meant by 'the countries which are ei-' ther the subject of description, (*of the birth place of the writer*) or the 'scene of narrative, of the birth place of the writer?' No offence is intended to 'the author,' but really this appears unintelligible.

Page 11. Under the first general head 'the author' has numbered several paragraphs, 2, 3, 4, apparently as subordinate divisions of his discourse. Under the second general head, he has discontinued this

plan, though he is nearly as diffuse under the second, as under the first general head. He begins a paragraph in this page, 'Another duty of 'him who would preach the word of God faithfully, is,' &c. &c. Will the gentleman be so good as to consider whether the paragraph would not have been commenced better in the following words? *Another duty of the faithful preacher, is, to accustom himself to habits of frequent and close meditation.* It would have been less circumlocutory, though that to some persons might have been no cause of preference. The idea of some young divines in close meditation, reminds one of a stanza in the Dunciad;

'Sedulous he sate, with all his books around,
'Sinking from thought to thought, a vast profound!
'Plung'd for his sense,' &c. &c. &c.

But to proceed; 'the author' speaks of 'persuading rational beings to 'be rationally virtuous.' Can rational beings be irrationally virtuous? Was this word, 'rational,' repeated merely from a love of jingle? The words 'what hope,' &c. immediately following, have no reference to, or dependence upon, any preceding expression which can justify their independent use here. They can hardly be intended to refer to the expression in the preceding sentence, 'can possibly be expected.' To expect hope, would indeed be to refine upon refinement. Pray, can 'men' be 'pious' otherwise than 'from principle?'

Page 12. Our 'author,' says, 'a minister's discourse should be clear 'and easily comprehended.' He probably means, *easy of comprehension*, for he hardly intends to take the business of comprehension entirely to himself, and he cannot answer for the comprehension of his auditory. After stating a few ideas in a great many sonorous polysyllables, he concludes the paragraph by saying, 'It is thus only that he can do 'justice to his subject; and all this is the fruit of meditation.' It is pretty evident from many sermons, that to 'do justice to a subject,' is not necessarily 'the fruit of meditation.' In the next paragraph he talks of answering a certain class of men, 'in a style of general invec-'tive and contempt!' Ought this to be at any time the conduct of a christian minister, 'an ambassadour of a meek and lowly master?' What good would probably result from it? He next speaks of another class 'who have a right to be *convinced* by cool reasoning.' Does this young gentleman mean to insinuate that to *answer* and *convince*, are *with him* synonimous terms? In the next sentence he speaks of 'others of strong, comprehensive, artful and penetrating minds,' &c. Two epithets, although they might convey an idea as well, do not sound so prettily as four.

Page 13. Towards the end of the paragraph now under consideration, he falls into his former fancy for repetition. 'However' appears three times in two lines. So pleased is the gentleman with this

jingle, that he forgets (as in a former instance,) the proper meaning of words. He talks of 'arguments' being 'fruitful in artifices.' Perhaps he means, that his 'antagonist might be fruitful in artifices.' He concludes this paragraph in the same manner as the preceding. 'Now all 'this is the fruit of meditation.' Yet 'meditation' will not always produce this fruit. Industry properly directed, would be far more useful to many persons, than 'meditation.' Every man is not a Marcus Antoninus. The meditations of some men, are like the grave dozings of an owl in a barn. They may produce a 'te-whit, te-woo,' but after the exclamation is over, the hearer is just as wise as he was before.

Page 14. Our 'author' says, 'why should we conceal imperfections 'so notorious?' How can that which is notorious be concealed? Forgetting his former statement in page 7, that 'the world is different at 'present from what it was in the days of the apostles,' he says here, 'human nature, and *human passions* are the same in our age, as they 'were in the infancy of our religion.' Pray, are not '*human passions*' a part of 'human nature?' The word 'conscience,' (in this page, 14, fourth line from the bottom,) is used apparently for self deception. If this application of the word 'conscience,' be allowed in reference to speculative opinions, the grossest absurdities may be propagated under a specious pretence. The truth is, that the desire of proselytism, is generally founded either upon ignorance, vanity, or knavery.

Page 15. The word 'slaves,' in the second line, might be advantageously exchanged for *converts*. Our 'author' proceeds, 'There is 'in the world so much immorality, against which it is our duty to con-'tend earnestly, that we really ought to suffer our learned and pious 'brethren to amuse themselves with their humble speculations, without 'pouring curses upon their heads, or thinking ourselves bound to in-'jure their reputation, and ruin their influence. Some of the 'specula-'tions,' to which he may be supposed to allude, are not 'harmless.' Opinions, whose tendency experience has proved to be injurious, ought to be opposed; without, however, 'attacking the reputation, or ruin-'ing the influence' of their propagators, further than as expounders of the scriptures. The expression, 'pouring curses on their heads,' is too absurd and disgusting to require any other reprehension than merely stating it. It has been observed before, that when this gentleman gets the jingle of words into his head he forgets every thing else. The ensuing sentence is an additional instance of this frailty. The word 'weak' is twice repeated within five words. He says, 'the sect may 'be the weak opinions of a *weak* man.' The opinions of a 'sect' may be those of a weak man, but 'the sect' itself must be composed of human beings. He continues, 'They only who believe IT,' &c. Believe what? The 'sect' or the 'weak opinions?'

Remainder next week.

CONTROVERSY.

TO evince our most scrupulous impartiality, we publish the following Communication, without subscribing to the sentiments which it contains. The Anthology Reviewer perhaps will not think himself entirely subdued, when he is told that the Sketch of Spain, of 'only seven pages' contains more historical and geographical information, respecting that nation, than twenty-four large octavo pages of Doctor Morse's Universal Geography. We presume that this might readily be conceded, without risking any very great encomium on Mr. Paine.

DEFENCE OF MR. PAINE.

Laughs not the heart, when giant names that shine
Establish'd, as it were, by right divine;
Criticks, whom every captive art adores,
To whom glad Science pours forth all her stores;
Who high in letter'd reputation sit,
And hold, Astrea like, the scales of wit;
With partial rage rush forth—Oh shame to tell!
To crush a bard just bursting from the shell! CHURCHILL.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

THAT the greatest authors and most exalted geniuses must smart under the lash of criticism, is a remark frequently made and undoubtedly true. D'Israeli informs us, that Sophocles was brought to trial by his children for a lunatick; that some criticks had condemned the vanity of Pindar, the hard and rough verses of Æschylus, and the manner in which Euripides conducted his plots; Socrates was treated as an usurer, and Athenæus as an illiterate person. Plato, who has been called the Moses of Athens, the Philosopher of the Christians, and the God of Philosophers, has undergone a variety of criticisms; Athenæus accuses him of envy, Theopompus of lying, Suidas of avarice, Porphyry of incontinence, and Aristophanes of impiety. Pliny and Seneca say Virgil is destitute of invention, and Caligula denies him even mediocrity. Horace censures the coarse humour of Plautus, and Horace in his turn is blamed for fiction and obscurity. This catalogue might be stretched out "to the crack of doom." It is not surprising therefore, that the justly celebrated author of "Adams and Liberty" should be made to feel the envenomed shafts of envy and malignity, and the castigation of the "puny whipsters" of the times.

The preceding remarks I would not apply exclusively to a late publication in the Ordeal, which is considered as a harmless, good-natured attempt to raise a laugh at the silly, absurd practice of emphasising almost every word by a different type; nor to the observations of "A Reader" in the last Ordeal, which, though not altogether fair, discover no malice in the author. But the Anthology for March con-

tains a most pitiful ebullition of envy and spleen, purporting to be a review of a pamphlet entitled "Spain: an account of the publick festival," &c. These one-sided reviewers have, with wonderful sagacity, selected five sentences from "A brief Sketch of Spain," by R. T. Paine, jun. to prove that the author's "prose is bad enough to deserve the commendation of his admirers;" and they might have told us that this Sketch, which occupies only seven pages, contains more information than twenty-four large octavo pages of Dr. Morse's Universal Geography. Could they find no passage good enough to deserve the commendation of those who are not his admirers?

It is not pretended that Mr. Paine's writings are free from inaccuracies. He is no "faultless monster." It is not supposed that he writes to pamper the squeamishness of fastidious criticism. Every one knows that, from the warmth and exuberance of his imagination, his metaphors are sometimes obscure. Perhaps as many instances of ill-chosen figure and ill-constructed sentences might be selected from almost any page in the Anthology; though that work is conducted by a "Society of Gentlemen," eminent in Law, Physick, and Divinity.

From the style of this review, and especially from the concluding paragraph, it is evident, that the intention of the reviewers was not merely to expose trifling inaccuracies in this pamphlet, but to destroy the literary reputation of Mr. Paine. Many of his productions have attained to a high degree of celebrity, and the whole are now in the press, shortly to appear in a volume. This insidious attempt to stop the subscription, by mischievously reproaching the credit of the work, merits the contempt of every friend to genius, and of every enemy to detraction and malignity. FAIR PLAY.

IMITATIONS

From the Silva in the Monthly Anthology for March.

'EPIGRAMS

Are easily made;' but to make things and to make things well, are different things.

At a literature club four witty wights met,
Will, Jim, Frank, and Joe, were the names of the set;
For our next magazine, we want epigrams eight,
Says William to Joseph, who facing him sat.
I've some notable wit, which when polish'd will do,
Cries Francis to Jim, who hop'd it might too.
What the plague, is this it? cries Will with a sneer,
Why Francis, your wit is as flat as stale beer;
You're mistaken, says Frank, 'and he smil'd as he spoke,
'Tis *not-able* wit, which turns out *no joke*.'

MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE.

A singular and calamitous event which happened in New-England, was long involved in the deepest mystery, and was brought to light a few years since. Mr. D—, when a young man, was married to a young and lovely woman, to whom he was fondly attached. A party of the friends of the family were invited to pass some days with them at his mansion in Charlestown, to celebrate the happy event. In the evening of the marriage they were amusing themselves with playing '*pawns*.' During the game every thing was redeemed but the wedding ring, and they all were employed in seeking for it, wondering where it was hid. Not being able to find it, nor obtaining any answer to their repeated enquiries, they became alarmed, *and every one with all the servants, were employed in the search.* The house was ransacked from the chamber to the cellar. The garden, the grounds about, every thing was explored in vain. Thinking it might have been stolen by a servant, notice was left at the jewellers' shops in Boston, to stop it, if it should be offered for sale. Nothing could be heard of it. The husband and wife lamented their misfortune, and were always tortured with this mysterious loss. After a lapse of ten years, a large *gold fish*, which had long been a favourite of Mrs. D—, died; she recollected approaching the open glass vessel in which the fish was confined, when she played pawns ten years before. She had dreamed that the fish had swallowed her ring, and she determined to cause it to be opened. Her directions were obeyed, and on removing a part of the entrails, just in the place where she had dreamed the ring had lodged, what, gentle reader, do you imagine was found there? Why, the ring to be sure, you exclaim. No such thing; they found nothing, verily nothing.

AN INSTANCE OF EXCUSABLE FRIGHT.

A lady of my acquaintance, related to me a story which happened to herself. The circumstance took place in Cornhill; she was at that time a young girl, and her chamber was on the first floor. It was a municipal regulation of the town of Boston, at *that time*, for the watch men to call out aloud the hours of the night. 'Past 12 o'clock, and a cloudy morning,' had just awakened her, when she heard a clattering noise above her, which seemed to whirl about with inconceivable rapidity. Presently she heard a door creek slowly on its hinges, and something descended the stairs with a noise as terrifying as it was unaccountable. She became more and more alarmed as the sound approached; and when the something jumped upon her bed, the young lady shrieked with apprehension and agony. '*Mew, mew,*' whined *the cat*, whose feet her wicked brother Robert had shod with empty walnut shells; and who frightened at the noise they made, had been frisking about the house, and created general alarm.

ADVERSARIA.

"ARISTIDES, MILTIADES, PHOCION, AND SCIPIO."

THE democrats, in order to throw an odium on Mr. Adams, have published a pretended letter, in which Count Deodati is made to predict, that Mr. Adams would be treated like other great men in republicks, Aristides, Miltiades, Phocion, and Scipio; and Mr. Adams is made to add, that he expected it, and that history had verified it as to himself.

Now, in order to prove that Mr. Adams, who is well acquainted with ancient history, could not have compared his character and *fate* with those of the great men above mentioned, I shall give a very short sketch of each of those illustrious men.

ARISTIDES was a distinguished citizen of Athens, who rendered great and unexampled services to his country *in the field*, and so remarkable was his *modesty* and affability, that he consented to serve under his *rival and enemy Themistocles*. He was banished by his ungrateful countrymen, and *died so poor*, that he was buried at the publick expense, for want of estate sufficient for that purpose.

We can see no point of resemblance in this character to the history of Mr. Adams.

MILTIADES was another eminent Athenian Commander. In his first exploit against the Chersonesus he was guilty of the basest treachery against the inhabitants of that country. On his return to Athens he was employed in honourable commands in their army, and displayed great talents. He was at last accused of treason, perhaps unjustly, and was sentenced to death, but the punishment was commuted for imprisonment. He died in prison, but so poor, that his son Cimon was obliged to borrow money to redeem his dead body.

Surely it will not be pretended that Mr. Adams has experienced so cruel a fate.

PHOCION was both a celebrated orator and general of Athens. It is said he was too *modest* to solicit office. He was a man of a *mild temper* and persuasive manners. He was *extremely poor*. He was sacrificed by a faction in the state, and executed. At his exit he gave directions "that his son should *forget* the injuries he had suffered."—But it seems son disobeyed his instructions, and revenged himself by the blood of his father's persecutors. Historians say this was the only good action of his son's life, that he had but a small share of his father's abilities, and none of his virtues.

No part of this character or of this unmerited fate can be applied to the happy and illustrious life of Mr. Adams.

As to the last character (SCIPIO) we are not told whether the Scipio referred to by Deodati was the Asiaticus, or the Africanus junior;

both of them experienced ingratitude. The former having been fined, his estate would not pay the amount of the fine. The latter was strangled in his bed by order of the Decemviri.

We hope when the democrats invent another letter for Mr. Adams they will select examples a little more apposite.

Surely these instances of base ingratitude in former republicks ought not to be applied to a man, who, with his family, has received a series of honours and profitable employments, of which the history of no republick on earth can exhibit the parallel.

We are not disposed to depreciate the merit of these gentlemen; and we are convinced that their names will descend to posterity with all the reputation they deserve, unless pretended friends, or some unguarded act of their own, should tarnish the honour, which a liberal country has most munificently bestowed.

BIOGRAPHY.

I KNOW of no kind of composition better calculated to fix the reader's attention, than the history of great and good men; and of all specimens of biographical writing, I know of none, that in *simplicity* of style, importance of subject, and minuteness of relation, can vie with those in the PANOPLIST. Lest I should be thought singular in my opinion, I beg leave to present the reader with a few extracts.

In a Memoir of the Rev. John Newton, in the Panoplist for July, 1808, after an important relation of Mr. Newton's repeated voyages to Guinea, for slaves, we are told that through the kind procurement of a friend, he received an 'appointment to the office of tide surveyor of the port of Liverpool. This place afforded him much leisure, and the liberty of living in his *own way*. His circumstances now became *smooth* and uniform for some years, as before they had been *stormy* and various. At that time religion was at a *low ebb*, in Liverpool.'* The biographer then introduces a letter written by Mr. N. in which he says, 'I find my duty is to attend the tides one week, and the other week to inspect the vessels that are in the docks. I have a good office with fire and candle; fifty or sixty people under my direction, with a handsome six oared boat, and a cockswain to row me about.' Happy man! What, though religion is at a *low ebb*, yet thou enjoyest thy six-oared boat, and a cockswain to row thee about! Pattern of piety! thy sublime employment shall be the admiration of remotest posterity.

* In this extract I have taken the liberty to italicise a few technical words, not noticed by the Panoplist.

'Being at Leeds, he (Mr. N.) was desired by the late Rev. Mr. Edwards, to preach for him at White-chapel. He met a party of religious friends at Mr. Edwards's house, which adjoined the chapel; and took his tea (of which he was remakably fond) with them. At the appointed time the service commenced; and after prayer, Mr. Newton read his text, which was, 'I have set the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.' Mr. Newton began fluently; but in a few minutes he lost all recollection of his plan; was confused, stopped, and desired Mr. Edwards to come up and finish the service. Mr. E. urged him to proceed, but Mr. N. left the pulpit. P. 98.

Reader! have you observed several remarkable occurrences mentioned in the preceding extract? If you have not, then read it over again; 'pause and ponder, and ponder and pause,' and you will find that Mr. Newton 'took tea' with his friends! Why? to comply with common custom, or to prepare himself for the services of the chapel? No such thing; he 'took tea' because he was 'remarkably fond' of it.

Another remarkable circumstance, which would hardly gain credit, were it not related in the Panoplist, is, that 'after prayer he read his text.' If the unbelieving reader should doubt as to the truth or propriety of this assertion, Shakespeare furnishes an irresistible argument, which is to the point—'If two men ride a'one horse, one must ride behind.'

A third circumstance is more wonderful than all the rest. He was 'confused, stopped, and desired Mr. Edwards to finish the service.' Why did he stop? My dear sir, he stopped because he was 'confused;' and I presume he had more modesty than most of our extemporaneous preachers, who go on the better for being 'confused.' But why should he be confused? Lord, what a stupid reader you are, to ask so silly a question. Don't I tell you he had 'lost all recollection of his plan?'

'He published a narrative of the former part of his life. This procured a small addition to his income, and excited a greater attention to his ministry. 'The people,' says he, 'stare at me since reading it—and well they may. I am indeed a wonder to many—a wonder to myself; especially, I wonder that I wonder no more.' Bless us! what a crowd of wonders is here!

Many more passages, equally beautiful and instructive, might be selected, but *let these suffice.*

BOSTON THEATRE.

Master J. H. Paine, who has lately distinguished himself at New-York, by his personation of several important dramatick characters, and surprized the inhabitants of that city by his uncommon powers of

elocution, has appeared on the Boston stage, where he has performed the parts of Norval in Douglass, and Zaphni in Mahomet, with extraordinary skill. We believe we only echo the publick opinion, in declaring, that his judgment seldom fails of correctness, that his elocution is remarkable for its purity, and his action and deportment are eminently well suited to the passion he represents, and the sentiments he pronounces. He has satisfied the judgment of the impartial, whilst he has exceeded their expectations; and he has amply gratified the wishes of the friendly, by the success which he has hitherto obtained.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

7. Report of the Rev. Mr. Puffer to the corresponding secretary of the Evangelical Missionary Society. Also the Report of the Trustees of said Society, at their annual meeting, October 5, 1808. Worcester, I. Thomas jun. In which the author questions the utility of conducting missions on the usual itinerant plan, in which much is attempted, and little done, and proposes that missionaries limit their labours to two or three parishes.

8. A Sermon delivered at the Installation of the Rev. Horace Holley, to the Pastoral Care of the Church and Society in Hollis-street, Boston, March 8, 1809. By Joseph Eckley, D. D. senior Minister of the Old South Church, in Boston. To which are added, the Charge, given by Rev. John Lathrop, D. D. and the Right Hand of Fellowship, by Rev. Dr. Kirkland. Boston, Belcher. This publication, especially the latter parts of it, is an emanation of what the catholic spirit of the Bostonian christians once was. But the days seem to be hastening, when the intolerant temper of Archbishop Laud is to be exemplified in all its relentless fury.

INTENDED PUBLICATION.

G. Graupner proposes to publish, in a neat pocket volume, a collection of Glees, Catches, Canons, Duets, Rounds, &c. &c. usually sung by the Anacreontick Society in Boston, principally composed by Messrs. Harrington, Hayes, Hook, Aldrich, Green, Bryce, Hayds, Purcell, Atterbury, Webbe, Dibdin, and other eminent authors; to be entitled The Anacreontick Vocalist. This work is to be handsomely engraved on copperplates, and to contain from 70 to 80 pages. Price to Subscribers 1,50 cents.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

No. 3 of "Letters from Boston" was not received in season to be inserted in the present number.

A Communication from Cambridge is too trifling in its nature for this paper.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 15.] SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 1809. [Vol. I.

REVIEW.

Truth is always truth, and reason is always reason; these have an intrinsick and unalterable value, and constitute that intellectual gold which defies destruction; but gold may be so concealed in baser matter, that only a chemist can recover it; sense may be so hidden in unrefined and plebeian words, that none but philosophers can distinguish it; and both may be so buried in impurities, as not to pay the cost of their extraction.

Johnson, *Life of Cowley.*

THE AMERICAN REGISTER, *or General Repository of History, Politicks, and Science. Part I. for* 1808. *Vol.* 3. *Published by C. and A. Conrad, Philadelphia.*

THOSE productions, which, in the most remarkable degree, abridge the labours of the politician and facilitate the increase of national information, are such compilations of authentick documents, narrations of important events, and descriptions of the causes by which they were produced, as result from the most patient industry, discerning knowledge, and candid investigation. These are indispensible qualifications for every historical writer; but more particularly are they to be requirquired, when the actions to be related, and the motives to be traced, yet retain the hues of political asperity and party feelings, which invariably tinge the most honest contemporary representations.

The American Register, as it proposes to relate the history of the present times with accuracy and faithfulness, might become a highly interesting work, even to the spectators of the events to which they refer, and to the future historian himself, provided its character in those particulars could be fully and satisfactorily established. Such a pure Chronicle of events, would serve as a guide-post to conduct the general historian with safety through the complicated cross-paths, by which party spirit has intersected the direct road of foreign and domestick policy which ought to be followed by the United States. We consider, in opposition to general opinion, that the histories of events which transpired ages before the narrations were composed, are naturally more remarkable for their dignity than their truth, unless the historian possess the inestimable advantage of such guides, as a true contempora-

neous chronicle must afford. The dignity of his history will often require the exclusion of inferiour circumstances, which had been magnified into importance through the medium of party; but it requires more than human perspicuity to penetrate the obstacles which time and prejudice have contributed to interpose, to intercept the sight of the historian and prevent him from discerning the true complexion of any particular government. We estimate the work under review very highly, as it may be made to contribute to the future fame of this country when it shall really be distinguished by eminent men, and when its administration shall be actuated by such a liberal and energetick system of policy, as to inspire in the breast of its citizens, when the name of America shall be mentioned, a glow of patriotism and ardour instead of exciting, as at the present time, the suffusion of shame from an acute sense of national disgrace.

'The American Register,' was begun in 1807, and three semi-annual volumes have already been published. The third volume we have thought proper to notice at this time, because it undertakes the discussion of topicks of more than ordinary interest at this moment; and because we are afraid there are some dangerous conclusions to which a too implicit reliance on the integrity of the 'annals,' may possibly lead. But before we enter into the examination of these points, we will give a brief outline of the contents of the whole work, the historical part of which only comes within our intention to investigate. It is a comely volume of nearly six hundred large octavo pages. The 'Annals of Europe and America' make the first general head, and occupy about one hundred pages with the history of American events; this we are happy to observe, because we wish our writers to leave the task of European history to those whose immediate connection and affinity to the scene of events, render them more capable of attaining the necessary knowledge for the accomplishment of an end of such vast magnitude and importance.

Then follows '*An abstract of the publick acts passed in the second session of the tenth congress of the United States.*' 'A journal of a voyage between China and the North-Western Coast of America,' then ensues. 'American and Foreign State Papers, which immediately succeed, make up three hundred pages of the volume, and the rest consists of an 'American Register of Deaths,' and a few pages of original and selected 'Poetry.' Thus it appears that the work is chiefly political; and according as its character for impartiality may be determined, it should rise in the estimation of the publick. The principal national topicks included in the 'Annals,' are the history of the attack on the Chesapeak; the discussions of the American and British governments, on the right of search, which was one consequence of that unfortunate affair; the mission of Mr. Rose, and the causes and consequences of the Embargo. The first chapter commences with an

account of the inconveniencies experienced by the United States from the former practice of the British, in placing squadrons before the mouths of our harbours, and examining all vessels which might come in their way. In which the author points out pretty fairly the reasons which induced the British to pursue the practice, as arising 'not only from the desire of restraining the commerce with France, but from the supply of provisions of which these ships in their cruises continually stand in need, and especially from the circumstance of French ships occasionally taking refuge in American harbours.' Some remarks which drop occasionally from him in the course of this chapter, we should be disposed to contest if they were not of inferiour importance compared with some of the topicks which we shall hereafter be obliged to discuss. Thus he speaks of 'the *rights* of a warring nation over neutrals' naming all of them '*unjust*.' Does the author mean to assert that the right of search for *contraband* is unjust? Is the right of enforcing a blockade unjust? If so, the neutral would be authorised to supply one belligerent with arms and ammunition, to the detriment of another, even in a blockaded port; to say nothing of the apparent incongruity of terms, in the expression an '*unjust* right.' Again, 'the neutral is thus continually reminded that he is helpless and powerless.' Is a neutral of necessity helpless and powerless? with respect to us the observation is correct, but it does not follow that if we had a formidable navy we should continue so; or that any other neutral nations should be so considered.

The author mentions the case of the Leander and Whitby's trial, in terms singularly strong; and thus impeaches the impartiality of the British court-martial. 'It is hardly necessary to add that captain Whitby was acquitted, nor is it easy to conceive that this particular charge could meet with any other fate, either from the passions or the justice of the court before which he was brought.' If the justice of an English court, composed of officers whose honours are pledged for the performance of their duty is to be questioned, 'because the case might apply to all the judges as well as the offender,' so a court established on a breach of discipline, or to examine any indecorous conduct of an individual, might be vilified with equal propriety. Yet nothing is more frequent than condemnation for such offences, under such jurisdictions.

The second chapter relates to the deplorable affair of the Chesapeak and Leopard, which the author commences by the following singularly original remark: 'As long as mankind are endowed with the same passions, there never will occur a quarrel between individuals or nations, in which either party is wholly blameless.' We cannot stop to question much at length the truth of the assertion, but we state it merely to shew, that the author attaches faults both to the Americans and English, in the circumstances connected with that catastrophe.

We are willing to admit this, though we cannot so readily agree to the reasonings of our author on the subject, nor to the causes to which he ascribes the melancholy occurrence. He observes, 'the transaction which took place at that time, originated in the desertion of certain seamen from the British ship Melampus.' [Chap. II. p. 12.] And then he proceeds to inform us of the circumstances attending that desertion, the enlistment of the seamen on board the Chesapeak, and the demand made of them by the British consul at Norfolk. The enquiry which it is said the American government instituted upon the citizenship of the seamen is enlarged upon, and the probabilities respecting their unsupported assertions in relation to their nativity are weighed and compared, as well as the propriety of the conduct of the administration in ultimately refusing to deliver them up. Assuming the desertion from the Melampus to be the sole cause of Admiral Berkley's proclamation which was evidently the immediate cause of the attack on the Chesapeak, the author, we think, will find it difficult to discover authority sufficient to maintain his assertion. As he has not conceived it necessary to cite the authorities on which his declaration is founded, and whilst we have official documents before us which speak a different language, we hope to be excused, if we do not suffer the unsupported account of this writer to supercede the evidence of Berkley's proclamation. So far was 'the desertion from the Melampus' from being the 'origin' of the transaction, that the proclamation, whilst it enumerates six vessels, deserters from which are assigned as reasons for the claim of search, the Melampus is not once mentioned. The vessels particularized were the Belliste, Bellona, Triumph, Chichester, Halifax, and Zenobia (Cutter). In an historical narrative, where the most scrupulous correctness and fidelity are fairly to be claimed, such deviation from the principal official document in the case, ought certainly to have been supported by countervailing testimony. How far the American government were authorised to refuse to deliver the deserters from the Melampus, is nugatory, since the question at issue between Berkley and Barron, was not respecting those men, but many others; more particularly, five deserters from the Halifax, who first rose upon their officer, and afterwards insulted their commander in the streets of Norfolk. It is clear from the fact that Capt. *Humphreys* exceeded his instructions in taking men from the Chesapeak, who were not included in them, and therefore should it be settled by his punishment; but it cannot be admitted that the transaction originated in the desertions from the Melampus, when they seem to have been purposely omitted by Berkley in his proclamation. The evident attempt of this writer to screen the administration, in his relation of the facts in this manner, is preposterously absurd; they were unquestionably wrong in suffering British seamen to be enlisted on board their ships of war, but they were clearly right in refusing to suffer the search to be made. Jenkin Ratford was the only man on board the Chesapeak, who came

within the compass of Capt. Humphrey's instructions, and he had entered by another name, (Wilson) which circumstance might have been unknown by Commodore Barron, and he is not obliged to resort to the necessity 'of justifying his denial by the disputed meaning of the word deserter.' The American government therefore, might be more fully vindicated from the charge of prevarication and falsehood, under a true statement of facts, than by arrogant assumptions which do not contain sufficient colour of truth to confer on them the appearance of plausibility.

The account of the action next engages the attention of our author, in several particulars of which we discover some of those smaller lapses of correctness and deviations from authority of which we have before had occasion, and certainly have a right to complain, in this historical narration. Thus, the ensuing account directly contradicts the letter of Capt. Humphreys in regard to the time the action continued. 'Before these orders could be executed the Leopard commenced a heavy fire. This fire unfortunately was very destructive. In about *thirty* minutes, the hull, rigging and spars were greatly damaged,' &c. (page 47). Capt. Humphreys does not allow the firing to have continued so long; he says with great precision 'at the expiration of *ten* minutes from the first shot being fired, the pendant and ensign of the Chesapeak were lowered.'* Our author does not expressly mention a circumstance which we consider to have been important, but leaves it to his reader's imagination, the formal offer of surrender, and the striking the American flag on board the Chesapeak. Future readers would not be able to discover these facts from any expression in the 'Annals.'

In chapter III. the author proceeds to relate the astonishing effects of this melancholy event, which extinguished the fire of party asperity, caused every one to sigh for the indignity we had sustained, and produced unavailing attempts among some part of the people to heal the wound the national honour had received by the ill-directed revenge of exasperated animosity. The destruction of two hundred casks of water, the raising of the militia in the vicinity of Norfolk, were the principal warlike incidents which occurred. The author then touches upon the court of enquiry instituted upon the conduct of Commodore Barron, and afterwards complains of the decision of the court martial in punishing him for a mere 'errour of judgment,' which the author considers very humanely to have been of 'such a kind, and in such circumstances' as to be 'the most venial in itself, but most harmless in its consequences, that can be easily imagined.' Its 'kind' is best known to Capt. Barron himself; 'the consequences' have only been to imbue the national character with a stain of disgrace so indelible, that neither time nor repentant tears will ever be able to eradicate it.

[*To be continued.*]

* Letter to John Erskine Douglas, Esq. captain of his majesty's ship Bellona.

REMARKS,

On a Sermon delivered at King's Chapel, Boston, 1st January, 1809.

By SAMUEL CAREY.

(Concluded from page 217.)

Page 16. Our 'author' says, 'He ought not to satisfy himself with 'discussions of general topicks, with dispensing general censure or 'praise, but he should honestly represent to his people the consequen- 'ces of particular sins.' Pray ought a minister to 'dispense' particular 'censure or praise?' If the consequences of all sins are the same, why talk about 'the consequences of particular sins?' He proceeds: 'It is one very important part of his duty to reprove voluntary faults,' &c. Pray what is to be done respecting 'involuntary errours,' as Mr. Madison expresses himself in his inaugural address? The author adds, 'It is a duty to disclose the *real* motives of bad actions.' Is not this requiring more than any human being was ever able to perform? He talks of displaying 'the extreme deceitfulness of the human heart.' How will this gentleman and his colleague agree upon this expression? He proceeds, 'this may and ought *always* to be done with *gentleness*.' In page 12 he says, 'some persons should be answered in a style of 'general invective and contempt.' He adds, 'It is *certainly* a most un- 'welcome employment, but it ought not to excite enmity.' Many people think it an agreeable 'employment,' and believe that it excites no more 'enmity' than many other employments, but upon the whole rather less. He then speaks about 'concealing necessary truth,' as if any body expected unnecessary 'truth' from these gentlemen. He concludes the paragraph, by saying, 'We must not see them loitering 'negligently upon the edge of a precipice, without telling them plain- 'ly that death is before them.' The effect of this metaphor is entirely destroyed by the tameness of its termination. Death is before us all, whether upon the edge of a precipice or not. This mode of writing is somewhat in the style of the following lines:

His eyeballs burn, he wounds the smoking plain,
And knots of scarlet ribbon deck his mane. MART. SCRIB.

In the last line of this page, he says, 'A faithful minister must govern 'himself.' Is this duty peculiar to 'a faithful minister?'

Page 17. He says, 'He must exhibit himself a *living* example,' &c. a *dead* example will not answer the purpose; nor could he indeed in this case 'exhibit himself.' In the next paragraph he says, 'the first 'care of a christian minister should be to enlighten his *conscience*.' He probably means his *understanding*. Perhaps, however, the word was adopted on account of the beauty of repetition, as it occurs again within three lines. He here varies his language very prettily, by a frequent change of person, 'Let *him*,' and 'Let *us*.' This entertaining variety

of person, is indeed spread through the whole sermon. The two concluding sentences of this page, cannot boast much elegance of composition. They are somewhat in the style of a petulant schoolboy, 'what if we are,' and 'what if it should,' &c.

Page 18. The sentence at the top, seems by the repetition of the word 'general,' to contain a military idea, especially as it is preceded by the word 'storm.' This idea is contained in a subsequent sentence, as, 'We are protected by a shield,' by 'a fortress,' and by 'a power.' Then changing the person, 'He is an ambassadour.' Our author *gently* hints to this ambassadour, that he need not do what it is utterly impossible he should do, if he be the ambassadour he pretends; (i. e.) 'of a meek and lowly master.' 'He need not do this in a tone of 'fierce defiance, or in a spirit of bitter animosity, or in the language of 'a common brawler.' If these insinuations be intended against other persons, he condemns himself in page 15. For such language must be considered as an attack upon their 'reputation and influence.' If we suppose these expressions to afford an exposition of his own character, then has our author long lessons indeed to learn, of 'humility,' of 'gentleness,' of 'patience,' and 'forgiveness,' before he can be fit to teach others by his example. Although indulging in a 'style of general invective and contempt,' may be considered as closely allied to the conduct described in this page, (18) yet the ambassadour of Jesus Christ certainly required no such caution. In the next paragraph he says, 'a christian must act his principles.' Can 'principles' be acted? They may be acted upon. Our 'author' proceeds, 'We are not to content ourselves with professions of benevolence,' &c. If we are conscientious, we cannot thus content ourselves. Perhaps he intended to say, we must not expect that others will be contented with our 'professions of benevolence.' This supposition is corroborated in page 19, by the beginning of the adjoining sentence, 'It is expected of us also.' He then speaks of 'throwing some flowers and 'some cheerfulness into the path of misery.' This mixture of metaphor and reality accompanied by the repetition of the word some, is indeed very entertaining; as if he had said, I will throw *a little* of each, but I will take care not to block up your path with one, nor overwhelm you with the other. After amusing himself with a triple repetition of the word 'sometimes' and a little expletive verbosity, he says, 'a minister may be called to hear the last groans of a wretch whose conscience has now told him for the first time that he has lived in vain. 'Then it may be in his power to save a soul from everlasting death.' Can a 'minister' save the soul of 'a wretch who has lived in vain, and 'is groaning for the last time?' Do even our Roman Catholick brethren pretend to as much as this?

Page 26. The author says 'our master may suddenly appear before us.' This is a new idea. Perhaps the gentleman intended to

say, *We may be suddenly called to appear before our master,*' &c. In the next paragraph, he says, 'the employments of the pastoral office, are 'such as may give delight to the purest and greatest minds.' He seems to forget that in page 16, he said of the business of a minister, 'It is *certainly* a most unwelcome employment.' The expressions 'purest and greatest' are probably allusive to himself, as in the next sentence he says of the 'employments, they place us above the pow-'er of the world, above the fear of death.' Here is another new idea. To start two original ideas in one page must be admitted as evidence of genius. With the utmost respect, however, for the clerical profession generally, some persons are heretical enough to believe, that its 'members are neither above the power of the world, nor the fear of death.'

Page 21. The preceding page was remarkable for invention, this excels in another embellishment. The gentleman appears here in a very *knowing* character. In thirteen lines, the expression, 'I know,' is repeated five times, and the consequential, 'I appear,' eleven times. This exhilarating pronoun, 'I,' acquires here the ascendency over 'He' and 'We,' and maintains it to the end of the sermon. Our 'author' says, 'I know the blasting influence of the temptations of the world. 'I tremble when I remember the weakness of human nature.' In the preceding page, he boasts of being 'above the power of the world.' The last sentence on this page is constructed in our 'author's' usually lucid manner; the last six words, however, appear to be entirely expletive, and not strictly grammatical, as the indicative mode is used instead of the subjunctive.

Page 22. Our 'author' says, 'I hold it a crime to pledge myself 'to defend the dogmas of any *human* theological system.' Are there any other than 'human' theological systems? 'I will be the slave of 'no man's creed.' Perhaps the young gentleman intends to form a creed for himself, for it cannot be supposed that he will remain without one. It is to be hoped he will oblige the publick with it, as soon as he thinks it complete. He proceeds, 'because among all that endless va-'riety of *opinions*, which have rent the church asunder, there is not one 'which is supported by better *authority* than some *human* teacher.' Pray what other 'authority' than 'human' does he expect to find for opinions? In the next sentence the gentleman has deigned to state a part of his creed, which is indeed truly liberal and ingenious. 'I be-'lieve,' says he, 'that every christian has a right to reject what he '*proves* to be absurd!'

Page 26. Beginning at the bottom of the preceding page, he says, 'I acknowledge myself unqualified to decide peremptorily on ques-'tions, which my aged and learned brethren in the ministry, after 'spending their whole lives in attempting to solve, have pronounc-'ed inexplicable.' Most marvellous sense and modesty! Really, he

carries his diffidence and condescension to an extraordinary length! He proceeds, 'I may have advanced a little way from the shore, upon 'the sea of knowledge,' &c. From what shore? The shore of ignorance? Whenever the gentleman ventures on a *trip*, he should take his partner to steer his skiff, and never go out of the reach of assistance alone.

Page 22. His former fancy for repetition now returns, and in a little more than two lines, he repeats the word, '*new*,' five times. This inclination must be irresistible, for he is here under the influence of 'peculiar solemnity.' He speaks just below of 'an eye fixed *in* heaven.' He means *on* heaven. This, however, with many other inaccuracies of minor importance, may be the fault of the typographer. There appears in the sermon a supercilious disposition, and dogmatical manner, not very becoming in an ambassadour of 'a meek and lowly master.' It is to be hoped that time will correct this gentleman's egotising inclination, and that a careful perusal of Lindley Murray's grammar will improve his mode of writing. It would be fortunate, if he, as well as some others, would recollect an observation ascribed to a clergyman of Boston, that '*it is dangerous for any man to print a sermon before he is forty years of age.*' Sincere good wishes for the welfare and usefulness of 'the author,' accompany these observations, which it is hoped will not appear more severe than the various occasions of them justify. It only remains to say, that in the admirable charge, which, unfortunately for this sermon, is annexed to it, there appears only one oversight, if such it may be called. At page 12, the fifth line from the bottom, the word *for* might perhaps be advantageously substituted, for the word, '*but*.' It is almost impossible to say too much in praise of this charge.

Cambridge, April 5, 1809.

N. B. It is to be hoped, that the sagacious reader will perceive, that these observations are imbued with the spirit of the sermon which produced them. Its character appears to be somewhat similar to Gratiano's reason, 'two grains of wheat in a bushel of chaff.'

LETTERS FROM BOSTON.

No. III.

BOSTON, September 19, 1808.

To — —,

THE natural prospects around this city are highly delightful. If you ride into the country and enjoy the reality of what in the town only delights you at a distance, you are never disappointed; the scenery constantly varies its appearance as you proceed, and always adds the charm of vivacity and beauty to that of perpetual novelty. Whether

you view the city from the country or the country from the city, the magick of the scene enchains your imagination with irresistible power. The Bostonians are remarkably fond of conducting strangers through their city; as they often imagine it adds to their consequence among their fellow citizens, who are the most curious people in the universe; and in their investigation of a man's respectability, the *place at which he lodges*, and the persons to whom he may accidentally bring letters of introduction, are of infinitely more amount than his learning, abilities, or general manners. This peculiarity, however, from whatever cause it arises, is eminently agreeable to a visitor; I owe to it many a pleasant hour, which but for it, would have been spent in solitary retirement. Mr. Gadfly who seems wonderfully fond of shewing himself in publick, can derive no greater pleasure than in accompanying me to all places eminent either for publick resort, beauty of appearance, or any other distinction. He knows every body, and every thing which transpires, and in our rambles, he entertains me with the characters of almost all the passengers we meet. I will give you some of his characteristick delineations occasionally, as my recollection may furnish me with materials; for I assure you they are often given with liveliness, and expressed by much finer touches than could be expected from so superficial an observer of men and manners. There is no depth, no elegance, no refinement of observation about him, but his sketches are given with grimaces so ridiculously absurd, and language so singularly constructed, that it is almost impossible to resist laughing at his folly, whilst you condemn your judgment that can suffer you to be pleased with any thing he utters.

Irregularity is a peculiarity of Boston, which distinguishes it from all the cities I ever saw; it is situated on a peninsula, in itself very uneven, and is intersected by streets, lanes, and alleys, in all directions, of all widths, and hardly one of them straight. The streets are some of them with and some without pavement; the side walks are part of them covered with flag-stones and brick, part of them only with gravel, and part of them with round paving stones. The same irregularity is to be observed in their buildings; every one builds to please his fancy, so that at every corner you turn you discover a new whim. Of consequence there is a most agreeable disregard of all rules of proportion and architecture, in some edifices, whilst others are eminently elegant and built in the finest possible taste. The general effect of this freakishness is pleasing enough. One man builds his house upon the top of a very high hill, in order, like the spirit Asmodeo, to oversee the rest of the town, whilst the hill, daily deserting him, makes the building tremble at the foundation; another erects his dwelling so high, that not having sufficient base to sustain the elevation, a whole side of his house has fallen through his neighbour's roof. Some choose their parlours in the air, others on the ground floor; the en-

trances of some houses are so concealed that you cannot find them without difficulty; others are directly upon the street; some buildings present one end only to view, some are placed at a great distance from the street, with gardens in front; in short it is impossible, I believe, to imagine a design for a dwelling house, which has not some precedent in Boston. The publick edifices in general do not evince the elegance and taste, which are displayed in many of the dwelling houses. I shall take occasion to describe the most remarkable, when I have sufficient leisure to examine them with attention.

Beacon Hill is an eminence, which commands a delightful prospect of the harbour of Boston and the surrounding country. There is a miserable column of brick placed upon the summit of this hill which the inhabitants ridiculously dignify with the name of monument. It contains four inscriptions round its base, intended I presume to revive the patriotism of those Americans who happen to read them, by allusions to the surrounding scenery: but which, from the contemptible structure on which they are engraven, and as they speak very little in favour of the patriotism or munificence of those who caused it to be erected, do not seem well calculated to produce the contemplated effect. If it be a monument of any thing, it is of disgrace to the city, in suffering so miserable a memorial to stand, of the glorious achievements of their councils and their arms. The economy of the government seems to pervade all classes of the people, in regard to national objects; but in great dinners and feasts of every description, I am told, they are eminently distinguished. They eat into a great man's favour, and drink their political enemies into destruction. The money they profusely and lavishly expend for such temporary objects might be collected and applied to the institution of some permanent national establishment, which, whilst it would leave honourable testimony of the true patriotism which originated it, would effect the necessary purpose of party, in a manner much more dignified and equally successful.

Yours, C. S.

POETRY.

THALABA.

WE have often had occasion to notice the pretensions of Mr. Southey, as a poet. In endeavouring to establish a new system of versification and sentiment, derived partly from German and French models, and partly from his own imagination, he has been the ridicule of many writers, who, if he had contented himself with a more unostentatious display of his acknowledged talents, would have been ready to have awarded to him the panegyricks which many of his writings deserve.

The poem of Thalaba, which seems to have many admirers in this country, was the first systematick attempt to innovate upon the established institution of English verse, and among all men of taste has entirely failed. It certainly has had very little effect in producing imitators. It may be somewhat entertaining to our readers to peruse the following remarks upon the versification of Thalaba.

'The first thing that strikes the reader of Thalaba, is the singular structure of the versification, which is a jumble of all the measures that are known in English poetry, (and a few more) without rhyme, and without any sort of regularity in their arrangement. Blank odes have been known in this country about as long as English sapphicks and dactylicks; and both have been considered, we believe, as a species of monsters, or exoticks, that were not very likely to propagate, or thrive, in so unpropitious a climate. Mr. Southey, however, has made a vigorous effort for their naturalization, and generously endangered his own reputation in their behalf. The melancholy fate of his English sapphicks we believe is but too generally known; and we can scarcely predict a more favourable issue to the present experiment. Every combination of different measures is apt to perplex and disturb the reader who is not familiar with it; and we are never reconciled to a stanza of a new structure, till we have accustomed our ear to it by two or three repetitions. This is the case even where we have the assistance of rhyme to direct us in our search after regularity, and where the definite form and appearance of a stanza assures us that regularity is to be found. Where both of these are wanting, it may be imagined that our condition will be still more deplorable; and a compassionate author might even excuse us, if we were unable to distinguish this kind of verse from prose. In reading verse in general, we are guided to the discovery of its melody, by a sort of preconception of its cadence and compass; without which, it might often fail to be suggested by the mere articulation of the syllables.

'The author, however, entertains a different opinion of it. So far from apprehending that it may cost his readers some trouble to convince themselves that the greater part of the book is not mere prose written out into the form of verse, he is persuaded that its melody is more obvious and perceptible than that of our vulgar measures. 'One advantage,' says Mr. Southey, 'this metre *assuredly* possesses; the dullest reader cannot distort it into discord: he may read it with a *prose mouth*, but its flow and fall will still be perceptible.' We are afraid there are duller readers in the world than Mr. Southey is aware of. We recommend the following passages for experiment.'

'The Day of the Trial will come,
'When I shall understand how profitable
'It is to suffer now.'

'Hodeirah groaned and closed his eyes,
'As if in the night and the blindness of death
'He would have hid himself.'

'Blessed art thou, young man,
'Blessed art thou, O Aswad, for the deed!
'In the day of visitation,
'In the fearful hour of judgment,
'God will remember thee!"

'It is the hour of prayer—
'My children, let us purify ourselves,
'And praise the Lord our God!'
The boy the water brought;
After the law they purified themselves,
And bent their faces to the earth in prayer.

'Azure and yellow, like the beautiful fields
'Of England, when amid the growing grass
'The blue-bell bends, the golden king-cup shines,
'In the merry month of May!'

'But Thalaba took not the draught,
'For rightly he knew had the Prophet forbidden
'That beverage the mother of sins.'

'The blinded multitude
Adored the Sorcerer,
And bent the knee before him,
And shouted out his praise.
'Mighty art thou, the Bestower of joy,
The Lord of Paradise!'

'Dizzy with the deafening strokes,
In blind and interrupted course,
Poor beast, he struggles on;
And now the dogs are nigh!
How his heart pants! you see
The panting of his heart;
And tears like human tears
Roll down along the big veins——'

——— 'they perish all,
All in that dreadful hour; but I was saved,
To remember and revenge.'

'Like the flowing of a summer-gale, he felt
its ineffectual force;
His countenance was not changed,
Nor a hair of his head was singed.'

'Aye! look and triumph!' he exclaimed,
'This is the justice of thy God!
'A righteous God is he, to let
'His vengeance fall upon the innocent head!
'Curse thee, curse thee, Thalaba!'

'With what a thirst of joy
He should breathe in the open gales of heaven!'

'Vain are all spells! the Destroyer
'Treads the Domdaniel floor.'

'Thou hast done well, my Servant!
'Ask and receive thy reward!'

Mr. Southey must excuse us for doubting, whether even a *poet's mouth* could turn these passages into good verse; and we are afraid, the greater part of his readers will participate in our scepticism

ADVERSARIA.

THE ELECTIONS

IN this state and New-Hampshire will be of incalculable importance to the prosperity of the union. The fire of patriotism had subsided, but was not extinguished; it has been kindled anew and we firmly hope our counsellors at Washington will be guided by its light into the paths of integrity and wisdom. As the desertion of the federal policy has been the principal cause of all our difficulties with foreign nations, we have a strong expectation that a re-adoption of similar sentiments would now produce effects as beneficial, as those of democracy have been disastrous.

The success of the election of Governour and Senators should incite us to new exertions in the choice of *Representatives*, in order to secure a triumph. The struggle may be arduous; but if our resources are again exerted, the victory is certain.

GRATITUDE OF STATES.

'GRATITUDE is doubtless due from the obliged to those who oblige them, as long as they do not pretend to measure or force their

own reward, nor to use the others ill upon the pure merit of having used them well. There is such a thing as cancelling an obligation in publick as well as in private life. A state may sometimes overpay a benefactor; but scarce any subject can do more for a state than he owes it. The people lose much more by their generosity to their benefactors, than their benefactors lose by the ingratitude or stinginess of the people, whose fault is almost always on the other side. But suppose it had happened sometimes (which has rarely happened) that a worthy man should not meet a proper reward from his countrymen, for publick services done them; it is still better that he has too little or even none, than too much, and a worthy man will never seek revenge upon his country for a mistake in his merit.' CATO'S LETTERS.

THEOLOGICAL CREEDS.

'THERE are few "THEOLOGICAL SYSTEMS" in the world (legal establishments excepted) but contain almost as many falsehoods as words, and as much nonsense as matter. Give the corrupt priests but some odd, unintelligible and ill-favoured words, suppose *hia hac, trim tram, how wow, fee fa fum*, or any other sound that is utterly devoid of any rational meaning, they shall instantly find profound mystery in it, and fetch substantial advantages out of it. Nay when they are got in full possession of the said word, you are damned if you deny it to be sense, and damned if you endeavour to make sense of it.'

ENTHUSIASM.

'RELIGIOUS enthusiasm is a flaming conceit that we have great personal interest with the Deity, and that the Deity is eminently employed about us, or in us; that he warms and solaces our hearts, guides our understandings and our steps, determines our will, and sets us far above those who have less pride and more sense than ourselves. The enthusiast heats his own head by extravagant imaginations, then makes the all-wise spirit of God to be the author of his hot head; and working up all his brains into the clouds, despises and hates all that are below, and if he can kills them, unless they submit to be as mad as himself; for, because he takes his own frenzy for inspiration, you must be guided by his frenzy; and if you are not, you are a rebel to God, and 'tis ten to one but he has a call to put you to death.

'I have but a bad opinion of that devotion which is raised by a cruzed head, and can be improved by a dram, and a hot sun, or the assistance of wine, or can be lessened by cold weather, or by letting of blood. It is great madness mixed with presumption to pretend to have the Spirit of God, unless we can show it by doing works which only God's Spirit can do; that spirit which can do all things but foolish

things. Enthusiasm is doubtless a fever in the head, and like other fevers, is spreading and infectious; and all the zeal of the enthusiast is only an ambition to propagate his fever.

'Almighty God, has given us reason to distinguish truth from falsehood, imposture from revelation, delusion from inspiration; and when we quit that light, we must wander through endless mazes and dark labyrinths, and ramble wherever fancy, imagination, or fraud leads us.

'The great Island of *Madagascar* is divided into two great parts and parties, who are at fierce strife and everlasting war about a sanctified elephant's tooth, which both own to have come down from heaven, and both pretend to have it; and I am not sure whether it has not worked miracles on both sides: but as neither side will allow the other to have it, they hate one another as much as they love and hate the said tooth. *Great is the Elephant of* Madagascar, *and the Tusk which fell down from* Jupiter!

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

9. An Index of the Chapters and Dates of the Laws of Massachusetts. Boston, Munroe, Francis & Parker.

10. The Jewish Polity completely overturned; and the sceptre reserved for Jesus Christ. A Discourse delivered at Newburyport, Lord's-day evening, Jan. 29, 1809. By John Hubbard Church, pastor of the church in Pelham, New Hampshire. Newburyport, Thomas & Whipple. Affectation of sanctity is a blotch upon the face of piety.

11. A Sermon, delivered at Dorchester, Dec. 7, 1808, at the Ordination of the Rev. John Codman to the pastoral care of the Second Church of Christ in Dorchester. By W. E. Channing, Pastor of the Church in Federal-Street, Boston. Boston, J. Belcher. Apples of gold in pictures of silver.

12. A Discourse delivered at Plymouth, Dec. 22, 1808, at the anniversary commemoration of the landing of our ancestors at that place. By Thaddeus Mason Harris, A. M. Member of the Historical Society of Massachusetts. Boston, J. Belcher. 8vo. In this excellent tract, the manners of our ancestors are happily displayed, and their treatment of the aborigines finds a better apology than is commonly made. So accurate a writer as Mr. H. however, should know better than to use *conduct*, p. 20, as a neuter verb. The extract from elder Cushman's sermon, which shows the manner in which the fathers *carried themselves towards the natives*, should have corrected this errour.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 16.] SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 1809. [Vol. 1.

REVIEW.

'The whole of the question arising out of that transaction (the Chesapeak) is in fact no other than a question as to the amount of reparation due by his majesty for the unauthorized act of his officer; and you will therefore readily perceive that in so far as the government of the United States have thought proper to take that reparation into their own hands, and to resort to measures of retaliation, previously to any direct application to the British minister in America, for redress, in so far the British government is entitled to take such measures into account and to consider them in the estimate of reparation which is acknowledged to have been originally due.'—[*Letter from Mr. Canning to Mr. Munroe, dated September* 23, 1807.]

THE AMERICAN REGISTER, &c.

Continued from page 229.

THE next chapter (IV.) contains a dissertation on the policy pursued by our government after the transaction 'on the coast, of the Chesapeak.' In which the author, after recounting the difficulties which we were obliged to encounter at this crisis, and expressing his 'wonder at the degree of authority which the (British) government maintains over this unchained tyger (the navy) in its remotest excursions,' proceeds to offer an abstract of the president's Proclamation, which gave a sanction to the ebullitions of publick resentment, and observes 'it was impossible for the government to do less than this, in the actual circumstances in which it was placed, however adverse it may be thought to the dictates of scrupulous and cold-blooded caution.' But it is doubtfull in the opinion of our author, whether 'the formal order to depart from our harbours and coasts, which is given to all British vessels of war, be entitled to the same applause or the same excuse, as that part of the Proclamation to which we have just referred. Disobedience to this order could not fail to be considered as a final settlement of disputes as an additional insult and outrage, yet disobedience was innocent, because obedience was impossible. The captains of ships must conform to the orders previously received from their admiral, as to the time and place of their stay, and the admiral is bound to follow the instructions of his government at home. These orders and these instruc-

tions were given when the two nations were on terms of mutual hospitality, and could not be revoked but with at least half a year's delay.'

The unanimity which prevailed in relation to this transaction was but momentary. 'Inveterate habits may give way and customary enemies may embrace for a moment, but time will be sure to restore the empire to its old masters; enmities will gradually revive and the bickerings of party be as loud as ever.'

We believe the unanimity which prevailed at this period, respecting this transaction, is equally as decisive at the present moment. Opposition to the administration in other respects does not imply a censure of the policy pursued in one particular instance. Nobody denies the enormity to have been so glaring as to leave 'no room for the strongest prejudice to hesitate or argue,' and now that 'parties have leisure to resume their habitual suspicions of each other,' the publick sentiment in opposition to the Chesapeak transaction is as firm as ever, although it may be less violently expressed. Little as we can prevail upon ourselves to accede to the conclusions to which our author seems inclined to conduct us in this instance, we are afraid we shall experience still more difficulty in agreeing with him in his next chapter.

In chapter V. our author begins by suggesting some doubts of the sincerity of Mr. Canning in declaring his total previous ignorance of the measures of Admiral Berkley, and though the 'glaring inexpediency' of going to war with America is clearly admitted, yet the writer seems rather inclined to believe the ultimate purpose of the British government was to provoke hostilities from us. This opinion he is induced to fortify by the following character of Mr. Canning.

'Mr. Canning is the first British minister since Addison who enjoys the reputation of a poet and classical writer. Unlike his illustrious predecessor, however, his writings evince the vivacity of his fancy more than the tenderness of his heart. His wit is less simple and pure, but more brilliant and sparkling; and his satire is aimed, not like Addison's, at moral depravity, but political heresy. While the latter was fitted only, by his genius and ambition, for privacy and study, the former is eminently qualified for the turbulent and motley sphere of the cabinet and parliament. His classical taste merely displays itself in the force and correctness of his official compositions, and subtilty of his ministerial conduct. A diplomatick controversy is a scene exactly adapted to his genius, and if success in this kind of warfare is allotted to the greatest master of rhetorick, and the deepest proficient in stratagem, he may safely count upon success.'

So far are we from considering the first letter of this minister to Mr. Munroe, as not expressing 'useful or rational regret,' and so far from believing the British minister had any previous knowledge of the intentions of Admiral Berkley, that we are inclined to assume an opinion exactly the reverse; 1st. Because receiving as Mr. Canning did, the

account of this disaster, through English channels, there could not have been a more satisfactory assurance made to us than this, 'that if the British officers should prove to have been culpable, the most prompt and effectual reparation shall be afforded to the government of the United States.' It is admitted that the only information, which had been received, was probably from Berkley, and of course highly coloured in respect to us, and softened as regarded himself. How then, could Mr. Canning with any consistency arraign the conduct of an officer, before he was acquainted with all the circumstances of the case?

2d. We do not believe that the English ministry could have known any thing of Admiral Berkley's intention, because according to the declaration of Lords Holland and Aukland, on the 8th Nov. 1806, to Messrs. Munroe and Pinckney, 'instructions *had then been given*' and were to be 'repeated and enforced for the observance of the greatest caution in the impressing of British seamen, and that immediate and prompt redress should be afforded upon any representation of injury sustained.'* That such instructions had been issued is confirmed by a subsequent correspondence between Mr. Canning and Lords Holland and Aukland. Besides, the change in the British ministry, took place towards the last of March 1807, when the Fox administration were succeeded by the present, and Mr. Canning had not had sufficient time so to attend to American affairs, after his first conference with our ambassadours, about the 20th of April, as to have dispatched counter instructions, which might have been received by Berkley previous to the first of June, which is the date of his proclamation. But if the first note of the British minister could admit of a doubt as to his sincerity, surely the second must end every such idea, both as to the general disposition of Mr. Canning as well as to the meaning of the former communication. He declares to Mr. Munroe the 'readiness of his majesty to make reparation for the alledged injury to the sovereignty of the United States,' and that 'he had already assured him of that disposition in the 'note which he had addressed to Mr. Munroe on the first receipt of the intelligence.' In addition to this, Mr. Canning declares 'that his majesty neither does nor has at any time maintained the pretension to search ships of war in the national service of any state for deserters.'

The next chapter (VI.) relates to the conduct of the American government, in their negociations with England in consequence of this catastrophe. And our author seems inclined to adopt Mr. Madison's visionary opinion, (and in entire opposition to that expressed by Mr. Munroe to Mr. Canning,) that the attack on the Chesapeak afforded an opportunity for enforcing our long contested claims of the universal immunity of the American flag in merchant ships, too favourable

* Documents published by order of the House of Representatives.

to be relinquished. The persisting in maintaining this claim in consequence of a particular outrage committed against us, as an indemnity for the aggression was manifestly unreasonable, when the disavowal by Mr. Canning of the pretension which the violent act implied is taken into consideration. The act was an apparent enforcement of a claim to search national ships for deserters; the British government disavow the act and disclaim all such pretensions. With what propriety then, could our government demand as an item in the amount of reparation due for this particular outrage, the concession of a general principle, which had for years been the subject of negociation, and was equally as difficult to settle then as at the beginning of the controversy? The right of the belligerent to search neutral merchant ships for deserters, is novel in its nature; since the inconvenience of the practice had never been materially felt, until the independence of the United States had been acknowledged by Great-Britain. Though, according to our author, the 'real pith' of the controversy, may be the 'interest' which both governments have in maintaining their several claims, yet it cannot be denied that in reasoning upon the subject, the right must result either from the continued practice of nations in similar cases, or if those fail us, from such general principles of equity as may fairly establish a new doctrine of international law. However reason may be derided by governments, it is clear that they sometimes submit to it, or the British would not have disavowed the right to search national ships for deserters any sooner than merchant vessels, since her *interest*, which according to our author is the *only* test by which she is to be tried, is as strong in the one case as the other. We will consider for a moment, the question of the right of search in merchant ships, both as regards the practice and equity attending it.

In estimating the practice of nations though we cannot find cases exactly parallel to our own in consequence of the relative circumstances of America and Great-Britain being entirely dissimilar to those in which any two modern nations have ever been placed, yet we can discover admissions on the part of neutrals, which if allowed by us, would soon settle the controversy. In the treaty of Great-Britain with Russia, 1766, Article III, it is stipulated that—

"Neither the sailors nor passengers shall be forced to enter against their will into the service of either of the two high contracting powers, *excepting however, such of their subjects as they may want for their own proper service*; and if a domestick or sailor *desert his service or his ship* he shall be restored.' In the same treaty, article X, the manner of search is provided for.

In the treaty of England, with Sweden, 1654, concluded at Upsal, it is acknowledged by the XIIth article, that it is necessary for neutral vessels to have what are denominated 'safe conducts, commonly called passports and certificates,' in order to exempt 'their merchandize, ships

and *men* from capture when visited by the ships of war of the belligerent.' These 'safe conducts,' apply to the *men* as well as merchandize, and when properly authenticated, were sufficient protection. *The same principle is again recognized in the treaties of* 1666 and 1772, XIIth article.

The treaty of England with Denmark, 1670, concluded at Copenhagen, in the XXth article, provides as follows. After prescribing the form of the 'passport' necessary to secure the vessel, goods and *men*, it proceeds thus—

'When therefore, the merchandize, goods, ships, or *men* of either of the confederates and their subjects and people shall meet in open sea, straights, ports, &c. the ships of war, &c. of the other confederate, upon exhibiting only the aforesaid 'safe conduct,' there shall be nothing more required of them, nor shall *search* be made after the goods, ships or men, &c. but if this solemn and set form of passport and certificate be not exhibited, or that there be any other urgent cause of suspicion; *then the ship shall be searched*,' &c.

Various other treaties recognize the same right. The treaty with Sardinia, concluded at Florence, 1669, XIIth article, has the following provision, which however, may only mean whilst the ships are in port; but the principle it conveys is in decided opposition to our pretensions.

'All mariners, subjects of his majesty, who shall desert their own captain or master and enter in any other ship or vessel, upon complaint made to the officer of his Royal Highness, at Rizza, Villa Franca, or St. Hospitio, shall be taken from the ship that received them, and be restored to their first captain or master.'

The States General, in consequence of an attempt by an English man of war, in 1654, to search a fleet of merchant ships *under convoy*, undertook the discussion of the right, and their conclusion was, that 'the refusal to let merchantmen be searched could not be persisted in.'*

These instances are sufficient to shew the practice and principles of nations, respecting the right of search; we do not pretend to assert they will warrant the flagrant and unjustifiable *practice* of Great-Britain on this subject against which alone all our best arguments are applicable; but we think they will afford some authority under which her *right* can be maintained. But if the previous practice of nations could not be produced to illustrate the subject, we are of opinion that the opposition of our government can have but little ground of argument even on such principles of equity as must originally serve for the foundation of international doctrines. All the declamation of Mr. Madison about the *unprecedented* conduct of Great-Britain, is nugatory. The practice of searching for contraband was unprecedented *once*; but it did not follow

* See Ordeal, page 117.

that equity would not authorize the assumption of the right. The general principle is, that the neutral in pronouncing his commerce shall not materially and directly injure the friendly belligerent. If he does, the remedy is for the belligerent to put a stop to his underhand hostility, after he has ascertained its fatal operation. We maintain that if it be just to search neutral merchant vessels for contraband goods, it is equally so to search them for despatches; as it is difficult to perceive why the principle which is just in one instance should not be so in the other; at all events we should be happy to see the distinction fairly pointed out.

Under such impressions we cannot agree with our author, that it was right to injudiciously in our government to require the ambassador at the Court of St. James, to mingle the subject of reparation for an acknowledged wrong with claims for an immunity, which, to say the least, was of doubtful right, and ought to have been kept perfectly distinct from the controversy on an act, where (the principle which it includes being disowned,) the only question was as to the amount of reparation due for the injury sustained.

To be continued.

MR. MADISON'S SUPPORTERS.

EVER since the election of the new President, we have heard his praises resounded, whilst his political opponents have been branded with every opprobrious epithet which ignorance coupled with vulgar malignity could invent. But we have lately met with a production of rather an elevated description; far from grovelling in the bathos, the author frequently soars into the sublime. His Pegasus, indeed, appears rather restive, but the rider maintains his seat to the end of his journey. As it is a pity that the most luminous talent on the democratick side should waste its effulgence in the desert, and as we wish to satisfy the democrats of our willingness to sustain the weight of the arguments of their most formidable controvertists, we subjoin a few extracts from '*An Oration pronounced at Portsmouth, by Samuel Haines, A. M. on the 4th of March*, 1809. Our author introduces his subject in a most elegant style: despising the rules of criticism, he keeps propriety of meaning and metaphorical chasteness at a disdainful distance; as the following sentence of five lines containing six metaphors and two personifications, will abundantly evince.

'When the trump of fame proclaims to the universe the vanquishment of the demon of despotism, and the frustration of his mad designs and nefarious machinations, the goddess of liberty adds a new laurel to her wreath of victory, and a fresh plume to her crown of glory.'

'With pious duty hasten to compliment the illustrious patriot and statesman,' Mr. Madison, the 'venerable constitution of our political creed,' whilst he denounces with great vehemence 'the infernal conspiracies of the dark plotting Catalines of America,' who he afterwards tells us are 'a party of no inconsiderable pretensions.' In the course of his observations he takes occasion to make use of the ensuing metaphors: the bold-pinioned eagle of America, is placed among 'wind-woven clouds, of sulphureous faction, surcharged with nitrick gases,' &c. &c. Then he speaks of 'poisoned quivers' being thrown from 'complicated artillery.' But let us hear Mr. Haines himself.

'Essentially and constitutionally hostile to the vital principles of republican freedom, the mighty monarchies of the east are co-operating in their exertions to expel liberty from the world. But the bold pinioned Eagle of America is still seen soaring amid the angry collisions of those wind-woven clouds of sulphureous faction (surcharged with the nitrick gases of Britanical influence) which have darkened the political horizon of the western hemisphere. His towering height defies all the poisoned quivers, foreign despotism and internal treason are able to throw from their complicated artillery.'

Then our author's pathos begins to rise and he soon attains the very pinnacle of sublimity.

'The voice of an injured country hath invoked unanimity.—Nay, the blood of our revolutionary martyrs hath been heard from the ground!—The solemn eloquence of the death-sleeping fathers of our surviving republick hath spoken from the tomb!—The heaven-enthroned spirit of our departed Chief hath descended on a beam of his celestial glory, and whispered awful admonitions to his rebellious children beneath the spheres!—Yet, they heed it not, nor is their wrath abated.'

Shakespeare's scene in 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' then attracts his attention, as Hamlet's soliloquy on death has the good fortune to do immediately afterwards. He speaks of 'trembling shocks,' 'furious treason,' 'frantick blood,' 'portentous clouds,' 'shuddering worlds,' and many other expressions which remind us how Nick Bottom's

> 'raging rocks,
> And shivering shocks
> Shall break the locks
> Of prison gates.
> And *Phibbus'* car
> Shall shine from far,
> And make and mar
> The foolish fates.'

The inhabitants of Boston now receive the most tremendous philippick.

'Yes, within the peninsula of Boston, where the bold intrepid eloquence of an Adams and a Hancock once chained the ears of British tyrants and flashed conviction on the mind of every trembling Felon; where the ethereal flame of patriotism first electrized the generous bosoms of Columbia's free-born sons; where the sacred altar of American freedom first smoked with holy incense to the God of battles; even there, has hydra faction harboured deep its dark and serpentine domain; whence loathesome reptiles sally forth in all their envenomed forms of furious rampon, to prey upon the fairest fruit of freedoms verdant tree.'

We cannot but admire the true republican pathos and sentiment contained in the following sentence.

'Though meek eyed charity drops the tear of compassion upon the blindfold folly of deluded honesty; and speaks to benighted reason and misguided virtue, the language of conciliation, in accents as gentle and soothing as the balmy zephyrs of the vernal morn; yet stern, unbending justice, from this exalted throne of spotless purity, thunders denunciations dire on all the dark designs of plotting mischief, and of hell-born treason.'

Our author then in the spirit of the party of which he seems so able a leader, invites them to feast and be merry, 'let us eat and drink for to-morrow we die.' He talks of reciprocating the generous 'flow of soul,' on the occasion, as well as the 'generous currents of convivial joy.' He tells his audience not to be 'parsimonious of life,' but to sacrifice it to Mr. Madison. As Junius says of Lord Granby, our author 'seems like a drunken landlord, he deals out his promises as liberally as his liquor,' and we dare swear, did not suffer his guests to go home either 'sorrowful or sober.'

We have not room, (and if we had we should fear for the Federal cause) to quote all the energetick expressions of this redoubted champion. It may be only necessary to remark that it is in the same taste with those which we have already submitted to our readers; and are as to style, what the reasonings of the Chronicle are as to argument, something truly wonderful. We shall finish our remarks by offering the concluding sentence of this oration as a specimen of the best manner of the 'most formidable champion' whom we have yet observed in the lists of democracy.

'If civil war must ere long drench Columbia's fertile and verdant domain in the frantick blood of slaughtered kindred, we implore the God of battles, it may spend its fury before the hoary veterans of *seventy-five*, who yet live, shall pass beyond the stars. They have once conversed with England's thundering cannon; they have once dispersed the menial jackals that crouched around the British lion: and when the minority shall take up arms against the Constitutional Laws of the

majority, an attempt to wade to government and power through the innocent blood of their patriotick countrymen; when that Junto of Rebel Tories and their mortgaged hosts of servile minions, who are at this moment fanning the angry flame of civil discord, shall 'strike' their meditated blow of insurrection, the sleeping swords of war worn whigs and of their patriotick offspring shall leap from their scabbards and put the fiend-like foe to flight.'

EXTRAORDINARY GENIUS.

MESSRS. EDITORS,

THOUGH scribbling is not my profession, nor controversy my delight, yet I beg leave to trouble you with a few lines, for your next Ordeal. My object is to pay the 'tribute of my respect' to that anonymous though sagacious critick and elegant writer, who has occupied half of your two last papers, in reviewing the Rev. Mr. Carey's Sermon. I cannot find language sufficiently lofty to express the exalted opinion I entertain of his profound judgment and critical erudition! A production so replete with genuine wit, nice discrimination, classical allusion, and 'though last not least,' so luxuriantly speckled with inverted commas and apostrophes, I presume to say, has never before been seen in the 'tide of times,' and will never again be witnessed, at least in our generation. Great geniuses are like comets, that are permitted to visit our ken of sight, but once in several centuries; and then excite universal admiration.

I remember reading when I was a boy, a story of a *great genius* that appeared at Rome, in the reign of Augustus Cæsar. With respect to the birth, parentage, and education of this *genius*, we have to regret that history is silent. In consequence, however of the most diligent and laborious application, he had acquired an unheard of facility and accuracy of shooting peas from a pop-gun. Bore a hole of the exact size of a pea through a target, and this man at the amazing distance of three inches would shoot a pea through the hole, to the astonishment of the beholders. His fame spread through the vast Roman empire, and at last reached the ear of Augustus, who directed him to be brought into his presence. After witnessing his wonderful performance, the emperor dismissed him, and as a reward for his *genius* commanded fifteen of the most noble of the senators to present him with *a whole bag full of peas!*

I am, yours, &c. TIMOTHY.

P. S. If the reviewer should find in this letter a reprehensible *fancy for repetition*, please to tell him, Messrs. Editors, that he has wisely said himself, that 'two epithets do not sound so well as four.'

AMERICAN LITERATURE.

LIFE OF WASHINGTON.

THE disputes upon the deficiency of American genius, we fear, are not yet put to rest, by the appearance of any such splendid evidence of intellectual power, or any work of such uncommon merit, as to establish the affirmative of the argument. It remains a question, which time and experience, rather than reason and probability, must determine. Whatever may be said by the advocates of our countrymen, with regard to their natural talents, and the unreasonableness of expecting great evidences of intellect under the present state of society in America, before there exists wealth enough either for leisure or patronage; it seems apparent, on a close observation, that the inveterate habit of seeking and accumulating wealth, has extinguished the refined faculty of literary taste; and, instead of it, there has arisen a disposition to literary discouragement. This country is placed, in respect to England, very favourably, as regards the diffusion of general information; but adverse, as regards the productions of genius from herself. We have the advantages of receiving all the European refinements of excellencies, without any of the aids to produce them. We have neither extensive libraries, nor taste, nor disposition to patronize literary exertions.

The late Mr. Ames, whose productions, replete with fancy and glowing with ardent thought, have the fairest chance to rescue the sinking reputation of his country, has left a discussion upon the subject of *American Literature*, in which he has ingeniously endeavoured to account for our backwardness in intellectual attainments. But whilst we admit that he evinces very clearly why genius is not now encouraged, we consider many of his reasonings as proofs that the disposition, now so hostile, is not likely to terminate more favourably hereafter. We may be destined to become the Boeotia of the modern world; though we have not yet attained even that degree of eminence, for, if we have many fogs, we have not produced a Plutarch.

In their account of Judge Marshall's *Life* of Washington, the Edinburg Reviewers introduce some remarks; from which, as they have a tendency to elucidate the subject we are noticing, as well as to give a pretty fair estimate of the worth of that voluminous work, we shall offer a short extract. Speaking of the concluding part of the work, they proceed thus:

'This last volume is loaded with speeches, which clumsily and indistinctly supply the place of comprehensive views of the subjects to which they relate. Many of these speeches display great commercial knowledge, and a forcible and keen style of argument. But we have

never yet seen any specimens of American eloquence, that did not grievously sin against the canons of taste; and, indeed, *oratory* is not to be looked for in a country which has none of the kindred arts. The consideration which absorbs every other, in a country situated like America, is that of acquiring wealth. Every particle of intellect, therefore, is attracted to active occupation. Now, it is written in a wise old book, that *learning cometh by opportunity of leisure, and that he that hath but little business shall become wise.* When America, then, shall have reached that more advanced stage; when a greater accumulation of wealth shall have given *leisure* to a greater portion of her inhabitants—she will then nourish a class, new in her population, that of men of letters—*then* she will have orators, and poets, and historians; and then she will look back with other feelings, than we suspect she at present entertains, to the ludicrous proposition of her Congress, to declare herself 'the most enlightened nation on the globe.'

'In these volumes, we have found a great many words and phrases which English criticism refuses to acknowledge. America has thrown off the yoke of the British nation; but she would do well, for some time, to take the laws of composition from the Addisons, the Swifts, and the Robertsons, of her ancient sovereign. In short, our previous impressions of American literature have by no means been weakened by the perusal of these books; and we think it pretty strong proof of the poverty of her literary attainments, that she has not yet been able to tell the story of her own revolution, and to pourtray the character of her hero and sage, in language worthy such subjects. These remarks, however, are not dictated by any paltry feelings of jealousy or pride. We glory in the diffusion of our language over a new world, where we hope it is yet destined to collect new triumphs; and in the brilliant perspective of American greatness, we see only pleasing images of associated prosperity and glory to the land in which we live.

This opinion in regard to American literature, of these eminent reviewers, is strongly supported by those of Mr. Ames, upon the subject. Thus he speaks of genius:—

'Genius, it will be said, like a conflagration on the mountains, consumes its fuel in its flame. Not so—it is a spark of elemental fire that is unquenchable, the contemporary of this creation, and destined with the human soul to survive it. As well might the stars of heaven be said to expend their substance by their lustre. It is not to the intellectual world what the electrick fluid is to nature, diffused every where, yet almost every where hidden, capable by its own mysterious laws of action and by the very breath of applause, that like the unseen wind excites it, of producing effects that appear to transcend all power, except that of some supernatural agent riding in the whirlwind. In an hour of calm we suddenly hear its voice, and are moved with the general

agitation. It smites, astonishes, and confounds, and seems to kindle half the firmament.'

He then assigns as a reason, why the Americans do not seek reputation in the paths of literature, because they can much sooner gain it on the road to wealth. He speaks in the following terms of the love of fame:—

'The passion that acts the strongest, when it acts at all, is fear; for, in its excess, it silences all reasoning, and all other passions. But that which acts with the greatest force, because it acts with the greatest constancy, is the desire of consideration. There are very few men who are greatly deceived with respect to their own measure of sense or abilities, or who are much dissatisfied on that account; but we scarcely see any who are quite at ease about the estimate that other people make of them. Hence it is, that the great business of mankind is to fortify or create claims to general regard. Wealth procures respect, and more wealth, would procure more respect. The man, who, like Midas, turns all he touches into gold, who is oppressed and almost buried in its superfluity, who lives to get, instead of getting to live, and at length belongs to his own estate and is its greatest incumbrance, still toils and contrives to accumulate wealth, not because he is deceived in regard to his wants, but because he knows and feels, that one of his wants, which is insatiable, is that respect which follows its possession. After engrossing all that the seas and mountains conceal, he would be still unsatisfied, and with some good reason, for of the treasures of esteem who can ever have enough? Who would mar or renounce one half his reputation in the world?'

It is not to be denied however, that this love of wealth will absorb, as Mons. Talleyrand observes, all the generous feelings, and will not only check the growth of the plant, but destroy the seed in the earth. Mr. Ames continues:—

'Our citizens have not been accustomed to look on rank or titles, or on birth or office as capable of the least rivalship with wealth, mere wealth, in pretensions to respect. Of course the single passion that engrosses us, the only avenue to consideration and importance in our society, is the accumulation of property: our inclinations cling to gold, and are bedded in it as deeply as that precious ore in the mine. Covered as our genius is in this mineral crust, is it strange that it does not sparkle? Pressed down to earth, and with the weight of mountains on our heads, is it surprizing, that no sons of ether yet have spread their broad wings to the sky, like Jove's own eagle, to gaze undazzled at the sun, or to perch on the top of Olympus, and partake the banquet of the gods!

'At present the nature of our government inclines all men to seek popularity, as the object next in point of value to wealth; but the ac-

quisition of learning and the display of genius are not the ways to obtain it. Intellectual superiority is so far from conciliating confidence, that it is the very spirit of a democracy, as in France, to proscribe the aristocracy of talents. To be the favourite of an ignorant multitude, a man must descend to their level; he must desire what they desire, and detest what they do not approve; he must yield to their prejudices, and substitute them for principles. Instead of enlightening their errours, he must adopt them; he must furnish the sophistry that will propagate and defend them.

Surely we are not to look for genius among demagogues: the man who can descend so low, has seldom very far to descend. As experience evinces, that popularity, in other words, consideration and power, is to be produced by the meanest of mankind, the meanest in spirit and understanding, and in the worst of ways it is obvious, that at present the excitement to genius is next to nothing. If we had a Pindar, he would be ashamed to celebrate our chief, and would be disgraced if he did. But if he did not, his genius would not obtain his election for a selectman in a democratick town.

THE SPANISH CAUSE.

THE fate of the British expedition to Spain, seems already to have silenced enquiry with regard to the ultimate destiny of that most unfortunate country. But the effects of the British expedition could never have singly been calculated upon in any event, as bringing the struggle of the Spanish people to a decisive issue. Forty thousand men were, to be sure, a very fortunate reinforcement to the Spaniards, but they did not form a junction soon enough to render their co-operation with the patriot armies of any permanent utility. It was easy to foresee, that unless the Spaniards could have joined them, with at least 60,000 men, all the bravery of the British would be lavished in vain. The Spaniards were quelled, that is, so as to destroy all their efforts at co-operation, before the English arrived, and we fear the delay of the expedition from the attention of the ministry to points of minor importance, has been one principal cause of its ill-success. One expedition is sent to Portugal, and another to Corunna, points as distant as possible from each other; of course, judging of the character of their adversary, before they could form a junction, the fate of the *first* armies of the patriots must have been determined. If they had been successful, the English would indeed have arrived in time to drive away the invaders; but still they would not have saved Spain by their exertions. The brunt of the effectual fighting, would have been previously borne by the Spaniards themselves. As it has turned out, the most brilliant victory obtained by the English before Corunna, could have been of no material avail. Our hopes never rested upon the British troops, brave as they

are, but upon the continuance of the Castilian spirit. The peninsula is nearly overrun but is that spirit subdued? If not, our hopes are not extinguished. At all events, it will result that the *same* Spain which has hitherto contributed her blood and treasure in supporting and maintaining the empire of Napoleon, will no longer exist. The enmity which the present struggle has been calculated to excite, will never be eradicated; and neither the revenue nor the physical aid of the peninsula can ever again be expected by Bonaparte. The colonies too, are probably for ever alienated from all allegiance to him. The treasure, therefore, of the new world, will probably remain there, or be sent to England; and the emperour will be obliged to seek for other resources to maintain his armies. And extensive military establishments he will be obliged to maintain, even to keep Spain under, in the event of her present subjugation.

'The force of the example of Spain will not be spent here, but must reach over the other states of the continent. Admitting that no further successes should crown the Spanish arms, and that Bonaparte should, by overwhelming armies, beat down all opposition to his detestable projects; he has lost much, and must lose more, before the struggle is at an end. He has learned, and France has been made to recollect a lesson which she had of late years lost sight of; the powers of popular enthusiams, when roused by injustice and oppression. It is now to be apprehended, that similar acts of usurpation will be met by somewhat of the same resistance wherever they are attempted. There may now be other enemies to beat besides drill sergeants and imperial guards, before armies can march over the countries of unoffending allies. The feeling of power has been communicated to the people, in every part of Europe; and any such shameless aggressions as those which first roused up this feeling in Spain, will in all likelihood give rise to revolutionary movement elsewhere. It can scarcely be expected, that while things remain quiet, the Germans will change their government; but it is no small improvement of their condition, that the enemy should have reason to dread an intestine revolution (the only forcible antagonist he has ever met with), as often as he attempts to shake, by any extraordinary efforts of usurpation, the existing order of things.

'Nor will the Spaniards themselves fail to reap the fruits of their valour and patriotism, however sorely they may be discomfited in their present struggle. That Bonaparte will ultimately succeed, we apprehend is highly probable; that he will succeed without great efforts and losses, is absolutely impossible; and no man is frantick enough to suppose, that the utmost success of his arms can subdue the people of Spain into a nation of willing and peaceful slaves. This he knows as well as we do; and we may be assured that he will not only offer them good terms, after the tide of fortune has begun to turn in his favour,

but will finally grant them such a capitulation as their gallant resistance at once deserves, and renders it absolutely necessary for the conqueror to allow. He will rule Spain with a very light rod, if he ever rules her at all; because he knows, that there is no other chance of ruling her long. We ascribe here nothing to his virtues we only give him credit for some of that prudence which never forsook him before the march into Spain, and of which, there is too much reason to dread, he has long ere now regained possession.

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?—Cic.

LORD GRENVILLE'S SPEECH.

THE editor of a certain democratick paper in this town introduces *Lord Grenville* to our notice as the *Chatham* of Great-Britain. The obliquity of some people's minds is astonishing: they can see a *parallel* in a *contrast*;

'Opticks sharp it needs, I ween,
'To see what is not to be seen.'

Whether the peculiar eloquence of Lord Chatham and that of Lord Grenville, their sentiments, or their actions be compared, they will be found as entirely contrasted as Bonaparte and George the third. Mr. Pitt began a patriot, and ended in the 'hospital of incurables;' after he was made Lord Chatham, as Chesterfield very pertinently remarks, he was no longer Mr. Pitt, in any respect whatever. Lord Grenville began the most decided of *monarchists*, and is now united to the Foxites.—Lord Chatham's eloquence was sublime, figurative, sentimental. Lord Grenville's is acute, argumentative and didactick. So much for propriety of comparison. We are then delighted with a flaming introduction to his Lordship's 'celebrated' speech, even before it is made known in this country; a speech which is called very elegantly to be sure, 'an illustrious *monument, muscular, strong and full* to every point of truth, justice and honour. Its strength and symmetry *is* lost by abridgment, we therefore present it entire.'

Really the editor of this paper seems willing to introduce a novel system of logick and composition; he never thinks of appealing to common sense; but we have no doubt he makes a great display among those who admire splendid similes, and the reasonings of Martinus Scriblerus. Such persons will very readily comprehend the meaning of a '*strong, muscular monument.*' And can easily imagine such a 'monument full to every point of truth, justice and honour;' and if

they read Lord Grenville's speech they will be convinced that the 'strength and symmetry' of this 'muscular monument,' '*is* lost by abridgment.'

The editor then declares that the famous letter of Mr. Canning which he admits was *suppressed* by our government, when he elegantly remarks, 'it did not see fit to *blab* from its own cabinet the gross calumny of the British minister till it should be confuted by our own.' The phrase 'not see fit to blab,' conveys a vindication of the turpitude of Mr. Jefferson, equally original and ingenious. The editor very wisely remarks of this very letter, that it 'now becomes a *suppressed* document in England. The evidence of its existence cannot be found in parliament, except in an American newspaper; while our *diplomatick correspondence*' (without the suppressed letter which is contained in a newspaper) 'are produced and lie upon the table in the British House of Peers.' We cannot but admire this new instance of obliquity. This editor says that Mr. Canning's letter is suppressed in England, and that the evidence of its existence cannot be found in parliament. It would be very strange indeed if Mr. Canning had ordered the correspondence to be published before parliament convened, or before the papers were called for; but it seems much more strange, how a document can be said to be *suppressed* before any *authority* to publish it, had been given. This kind of reasoning, however seems congenial to the mind of certain writers;

All is infected that the infected spy,
As all seems yellow to the jaundic'd eye.

ORATION ON DUELLING.

Mr. Ogilvie, who had previously to his arrival in Boston, delivered a course of orations in the various capital cities of the United States, and been eminently distinguished for his rhetorick and elocution, pronounced his first oration, on Duelling, in this town, last Thursday evening.

The success which atttended him on this occasion was decisive. He possesses taste, fancy, method, and an uncommonly attractive manner in delivery. His arguments, upon the subject which he discussed, were closely, logically, but eloquently reasoned, and illustrated by the most vivid colourings of imagination. His descriptive faculties are singularly adapted to aid him in denouncing such a practice, as that which employed him on this occasion; but, we apprehend, all the thunders of eloquence will be insufficient to terrify men from the perpetration of such a crime, or to reduce the frequency of its commission. The exertions of Mr. Ogilvie merit reward; and we are confident to predict that he will obtain a very extended reputation, if, in his subsequent essays, he evinces equal powers of thought and elocution, to those which have occasioned the present acknowledgment of their superiority.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 17.] SATURDAY, APRIL 29, 1809. [Vol. 1.

REVIEW.

'The pretension of visiting ships of war has never been brought forward, so far as we know, except accidentally in two cases; and in these it was given up, before time had been allowed for discussing the subject. This is the reason why no direct authority can be found upon the point in writers on the law of nations, and no stipulation respecting it in treaties. But all the general principles which are recognized, both by authors and negociators, most uniformly and positively exclude such a pretension.—*Ed. Rev.*

THE AMERICAN REGISTER, &c.

Concluded from page 246.

THE discussions of the questions produced by the affair of the Chesapeak and Leopard were for a short time suspended by the expectation of the arrival of a special minister from Great-Britain upon the subject; so that when Congress met in October, 'the American government was still uninformed of the state of the controversy.' In the VIIth chapter our author informs us of the discussions which took place in Congress before Mr. Rose's arrival, the state of parties, and the measures adopted by Congress in consequence of the President's message, at the opening of the session. We find nothing in this relation which is repugnant to our own views of the subjects he mentions, excepting the following observation respecting France, to which we cannot prevail upon ourselves to assent. 'Such is the influence of party zeal, that the transactions in the Chesapeak seemed to be hastening to oblivion in the minds of one class of the people, while a deeper animosity was expressed against France than ever, though no very gross and flagrant injustice had been recently committed by that state against us.'

Our author does not presume to hazard any political reflections on the various topicks, which the singularly unfortunate situation of our foreign affairs naturally produced; but seems contented to offer an abstract of the arguments used by others, and leaves his readers to form their own conclusions. Whilst an historian should be scrupulously attentive to truth in his narrative of circumstances, yet we think he sinks into a chronicleer, when he proceeds on his course of description with-

out hazarding a single original reflection, or suffering his own opinion to be discovered, excepting by some oversight in expression. It is extremely ludicrous, however, in the impending dangers with which our country was threatened at that extraordinary session of Congress, to observe the efforts of an overweening economy pervade all their resolves. Thus the naval establishment was to be enlarged, as war with G. Britain was thought almost inevitable; and its augmentation is thus related by our author: 'On the 20th of November a committee of the senate had proceeded *so far* as to present to that body a bill for defraying the expence of building an additional number of gun-boats. The government had previously notified them that near two hundred and sixty gun boats would be necessary, of which about seventy were already provided. In distributing them, the greatest number, about fifty, was said to be required at New-York. The building of a gun-boat is said to cost about five thousand dollars, so that deducting those already built, and the stores already provided, a sum of eight hundred thousand dollars was said to be required to raise this *species* of navy to the force above mentioned.' All these topicks of controversy soon became merged in the great question of the embargo, which was soon after recommended by the President to congress. Innocent of all opinion on this subject, however, our author leaves it to his readers to understand whether government were precipitate in the adoption of that measure, whether it was beneficial to us or not, and whether it was calculated to produce the consequences on foreign nations, to which our administration with more confidence than judgment, looked forward as being so very conciliatory as to end all our commercial difficulties and place us again upon the footing of the most favoured nation. Our author merely relates the arguments of opposition and the replications on the part of the supporters of the administration; but does not advert to any real and intrinsick advantages which resulted from the measure, nor to the overwhelming distress in which the people of the eastern states had been plunged. For our own part we are apt to believe, there never was a great measure adopted by a nation, which on the whole, has operated so little to the detriment of other powers, and which more completely disappointed the expectations of its advocates, than the American embargo. Let us take for example the British West-India interest, which it was said the embargo would entirely destroy. It appears by a report of the committee of the West-Indian Docks, in London, that during the operation of our embargo, many more vessels were unloaded than ever were discharged in any year since the establishment of the institution. The article of sugar too, which before the embargo was established was so low in England, that the price would not pay the cost of cultivation and carrying to market, has risen so high as to afford a large profit, notwithstanding the additional quantity brought in the increased number of ships. One hundred and seventy-

four large West-India vessels have unloaded at the West India Docks this season, over and above the average number for the last five years.* The arguments against the embargo have strengthened by time; its advocates have been driven from every ground of controversy, till at length they have been obliged to desert it altogether.

In the IXth chapter the author enters upon the mission of Mr. Rose, relative to the Chesapeak disaster, which it was very probable would be impeded at the outset, by the intervention of two important circumstances. The nature and extent of the satisfaction demanded by our government, which had been dispatched to Mr. Munroe, were not the least impediment to an amicable issue. This atonement was 'a formal disavowal of the deed, and restoration of the *four* seamen to the ship from which they were taken. As a security for the future, *an entire abolition of impressments from vessels under the flag of the United States*, if not already arranged, is also to make an *indispensable* part of the satisfaction.'† A compliance with the first demand, as the author well observes, had been rendered impossible by the execution of Jenkin Ratford, at Halifax. The British proclamation of the 16th of October, 1807, with regard to deserters, presented a formidable obstacle to a compliance with the 'entire abolition of impressments,' which was stated as an 'indispensible' part of the satisfaction, to be demanded.

These objections to a reconciliation were increased by the opinion of the British Government, that the repeal of the proclamation of the President was a necessary preliminary to any negociation on the subject. Mr. Rose, on his arrival, found insuperable difficulties to encounter. The mingling of the Chesapeak attack with the general claim as to impressments, was manifestly unjust, because seamen in merchant ships, are in every respect differently situated from those on board ships of war. In one case, in addition to the seamen being considered on the national territory of the neutral country, there is a presumption that the government of such a nation will not knowingly retain foreign deserters in her service. In the case of merchant ships no such presumption exists, since it is not understood that a neutral government makes itself a party to the private contracts of individuals, which nevertheless may interfere with the interests and rights of the belligerent. The claim therefore of the universal immunity of the American

* From this report it appears, that fifty-eight more ships unloaded at the docks than the preceding season, and one hundred and seventy-four ships more than the average number of the five preceding years. Four hundred and sixty ships were unloaded with the following articles: 159,800 hogsheads and tierces of sugar, 26,900 puncheons and hogsheads of rum, 31,600 hogsheads and tierces and 150,400 bags of coffee, and 13,800 bags cotton.—[*Literary Panorama for February.*]

† Letters from Mr. Madison to Mr. Munroe, July 6, 1807.

flag in merchant ships, it was clear could never be conceded to us; and as Mr. Madison had made this an 'indispensable' item in the amount of reparation due for the insult on the national character, it was manifest that all hopes of Mr. Rose, to adjust the differences which had unfortunately been produced, must have rested on a very slender foundation.

Our author in the three last chapters IX. X. and XI. confines himself to the controversy between Mr. Rose and Mr. Madison, in which he gives a faithful abstract of the arguments advanced on both sides. When he speaks of the '*early, unequivocal and unsolicited* disavowal of an act not authorized,' on the part of the British minister, he expresses his feelings, in our opinion, rather too warmly. He says 'it cannot but occur that the merit ascribed to the British government, of a prompt, unequivocal and unsolicited disavowal of this act, and of the right of searching national ships, and the offer of atonement is quite imaginary.' It was by no means prompt and unsolicited, he observes, because it 'was wrung from Mr. Canning by the earnest remonstrances of Mr. Munroe;' and 'would be quite inconsistent with the caution and craft always to be expected from ministers of state.' It is evident that our author, in reasoning in this manner, considers the first note of Mr. Canning to Mr. Munroe before he knew any thing of the transaction off the Capes of Virginia, as nugatory, and as not amounting to any disavowal of the act of Admiral Berkley. As we have already had occasion to notice this very idea* in a previous part of this review, we shall now merely refer our readers to that passage, and confirm the sentiments which we there expressed.

'That the acknowledgment was far from unequivocal,' says our author, 'is evident from the causes in which the letter written in pursuance of a second remonstrance of the American ambassadour, in which the right of searching ships of war is virtually maintained; but only the execution of it, through the impulse of convenience foreborne.' Now the declaration of Mr. Canning to Mr. Munroe was, that his majesty's principles of justice and moderation had '*not permitted him to hesitate*,' in commanding Mr. Canning to assure Mr. Munroe, that 'his majesty neither does nor has at any time maintained the pretension of a right of searching ships of war in the national service of any state for deserters.' So far was this avowal from being *extorted*, as our author suggests, that it is made in consequence of a note sent to Mr. Canning from Mr. Munroe, before that minister had had authority from his government to treat upon the subject, and even before any statement of the facts attending it, had been precisely known. We are of opinion therefore, that Mr. Rose's declaration as to the early, unequivocal, and unsolicited disavowal of the unauthorised act of Admiral Berkley, was agreeable to truth and the spirit of amicable accommodation.

* Ordeal, page 242, 243.

The question as to the repeal of the proclamation was a mere question of etiquette. The British demanded it on the ground of its being a measure of retaliation for an injury sustained; if, therefore, that nation had determined to make *full and ample* reparation for an unauthorized act of its officers, the continuance of the proclamation would necessarily be a bar to the adjustment of the wrong, in so far as it was a self-assumed satisfaction on the part of the American government. Mr. Rose was therefore commissioned to make the repeal of this edict a necessary preliminary, to his offering the full and ample reparation, with which he was empowered. Mr. Madison affected to consider the proclamation as a measure of precaution against future repetitions of the like enormity; and declares the proclamation not to have been directed against the British nation for one particular aggression, but in consequence of a series of injuries and insults, terminating in the violent outrage of the attack upon the Chesapeak. Yet it was clear from the instructions which Mr. Munroe had received from Mr. Madison, that these previous occurrances were not considered urgent arguments in the case; they are merely alluded to by the secretary, and Mr. Munroe does not even allude to them or the proclamation in his remonstrance to the British minister. The proclamation, however it might have been justified in consequence of the flagrant attack on a national ship, was not called for on account of any previous aggressions, particularly as they formerly had been made separate subjects of negociation. The British Order of the 16th October contained a concession in respect to the attack, which might reasonably have removed all future apprehensions, especially if the violent opposition to it in England be taken into account.

The attack on the Chesapeak was made in the open sea; now, how the President's proclamation could, by prohibiting the ingress of British vessels of war in the ports of the United States, so operate as a *precaution*, as to prevent the search of national vessels on the ocean, it is difficult to conceive. Yet precaution was the avowed motive for this self-assumed redress, precaution against future injuries of a like nature; when the principal, in fact the real cause which produced it, was an aggression on the ocean. These were obvious considerations, which should have induced the president to have abandoned the proclamation, when enforced by the multiplied assurances on the part of the British government. First, Mr. Canning's disavowal of the pretension which the act implied; then the British proclamation for deserters, which is another concession; the improper acts of the American recruiting officer, which occasioned the attack, and afterwards the sending a special messenger to treat upon the subject; and repeated assurances given both by Mr. Rose and Mr. Canning of their willingness to offer reparation. The proclamation, however, was adhered to, and the mission failed. The consequences have been, that the country has

been nearly ruined by an embargo for more than a year, and produced in part by a too rigid adherence to a mere punctilio, which might have been removed without dishonour, *and in fact has lately been removed by our act of non-intercourse.* So that the government have done voluntarily what they refused to do by request eighteen months ago. By the non-intercourse act, both the French and English nations are formally placed upon equal ground, and government seem waiting to take the first advantage of a favourable change in either party.

We have now finished our contemplated review of the American Register, and we confess, we entertain some prejudice against the affected sensibility and croaking of our author, and indeed against many of his peculiarities of style; but we are much pleased with the publication on the whole. We consider it highly useful in its nature; it seems unexampled in this country, for industry and general accuracy of information, and though we recommend to our author not to show so evidently the democratick impulses of his feelings, in the historical narrative; yet we cannot but consider that his book may be rendered an important acquisition to the literature as well as politicks of the country.

THE PROCLAMATION OF PRESIDENT MADISON.

THE exultations of the democrats since the adjustment of the differences which have so long and so unhappily existed between the British government and ours, seem to derive their strongest interest from a presumption that the measures of the embargo and non-intercourse acts have produced important concessions in our favour; and that of consequence the wisdom of the administration of Mr. Jefferson, in establishing and continuing the embargo policy, is displayed beyond contradiction or reply. But whilst we participate with our fellow citizens in the general joy produced by the promulgation of that adjustment, and whilst we are willing to admit that President Madison has acted as he ought to have done on the occasion, we are still far from considering our embargo to have had any effect either in producing the reparation for the attack on the Chesapeak, or the proposal to rescind the Orders in Council of Nov. 1807. As a few considerations on these subjects, may serve to place matters upon a right ground, it will not be amiss to examine the subject at this time.

The attack on the frigate Chesapeak is the first subject which occurs in the correspondence between Mr. Erskine and Mr. Smith; and an offer is made by the British minister, that in the event of 'such laws taking place' as would place the relations of Great-Britain with the United States upon an equal footing in all respects with the other belligerent

powers, he would make an honourable reparation for that aggression. The objection to the previous reparation resulted from the existence of the proclamation of the President, which prohibited the ingress of British vessels in our waters. This proclamation being considered an act of retaliation by the British, was the principal bar to the adjustment of our differences, with that nation, and Mr. Rose returned home from an unsuccessful mission, expressly formed to afford satisfaction for the injury we had sustained. The embargo had been laid previously to the time of Mr. Rose's arrival in the United States; it was continued for more than a year, and the last publick documents which were published by our government, left Mr. Munroe and Mr. Canning perfectly at a loss how to proceed. All negociation had terminated; and the proclamation of the President seemed the insuperable objection to a continuance of the correspondence on the subject of the Chesapeak. In the mean time a law passes through congress, interdicting to all publick ships and vessels of France and Great-Britain, the entrance of the harbours of the United States; and authorising the President, (*without any reference to the Chesapeak*) 'in case either France or Great-Britain should so revoke or modify her edicts, as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States,' to renew our trade with the nations so doing. The proclamation of the President was thus virtually repealed; and an intimation was sent out to the British government long before the act passed, of the intention of congress to place both the belligerents upon terms of equality, in respect to aggressions committed.

The British ministry took a sudden advantage in this favourable turn of affairs to offer an honourable reparation for an unauthorized attack upon a national ship, a reparation which but for the interference of a mere punctilio, would have been as ample eighteen months ago. As this difficulty was voluntarily removed by our own government when they placed both nations upon an equality, we cannot subscribe to the propriety of the opinion of Mr. Secretary Smith, 'that this equality is a result incident to a state of things, growing out of distinct considerations.' Surely the 'distinct considerations' here alluded to, are not the decrees of France, for they had existed before the embargo was established. It is very difficult to understand the nature of these distinct considerations. The embargo certainly had proved ineffectual in all its branches of coercion, and it is perfectly idle to attribute the unwillingness of Great-Britain, to offer the proper reparation for her aggression on that ground.

The real truth is, that the Orders in Council, had become to all intents and purposes a dead letter. Whilst the last decrees of Napoleon continue in force, the orders have only an obnoxious effect without producing any real advantage. For after they are repealed, we are just as badly situated as we were before, in regard to the colonial trade.

Great-Britain found it useless to persist in continuing a measure which France was enforcing in her behalf, and of which her enemy would justly experience the odium, in the event of a repeal of the Orders. It is obvious, that Great-Britain has seized a most excellent opportunity to make a favourable impression on the minds of the American people; and without making a single sacrifice either of her rights or her interests, the British ministry will be able to silence the opposition in parliament and create a friend in America, whilst the French West-India commerce will be completely blockaded, and her own decrees will prevent her participation in any other neutral trade.

It seems very probable that Napoleon will take occasion to consider the equality with Great-Britain upon which he is placed in the non-intercourse act, as such a cause of offence as to induce him to condemn all the American property in France; and when he learns our differences with Great-Britain are accommodated, he may feel inclined to declare war against us. If so, Great-Britain, has a double triumph; since she has publickly declared herself the ally of any nation which should be in open hostilities with France. That it is the policy of Great-Britain to produce an enmity of this kind will not be denied; and the method she has taken to produce the end seems sufficiently probable: for what will be the state of things? England will blockade the French West-Indian possessions, and thus prevent us from obtaining any colonial produce from her enemy, whilst she secures her own West-Indian interests at home; she is on friendly terms with us only by sacrificing Orders which had become a nullity, and making honourable reparation due for an act, an adjustment of which had been prevented by the interference of a mere punctilio. France on the other hand, finds herself shut out from the whole commerce of the world; and now that Great-Britain has settled her American dispute, Napoleon will find his own navy interdicted as much as that of England was subsequent to the affair of the Chesapeak. This will naturally rouse his rage against us, and hatred to his foe; but where his animosity will fall is difficult, perhaps impossible, to determine.

THE STATE ELECTIONS.

THE federalists have once more gained a victory in the elections of Massachusetts; but the greatest trial is yet to be endured. The Governour and Senators are already ours; the Representatives must be made so. The arguments of which the democrats make use are not the less powerful among the people,

because they are intrinsically defective. The plausibility of political vice, like a base coin, will not readily be detected without analysis. By the seductive appearance of the wanton, she oftentimes eludes the discovery of her abandoned profligacy; particularly when she excites the passions. We have every thing to lose by this election, our comfort, importance, honour, and political security. The 'inextricable confusion,' which would ensue from it, would involve us in perpetual uproar. The times therefore, demand the exertions of all our influence, all our talents, and all our resources, to arrest the progress of fatal delusion in political opinions, and the influence of such variable winds of doctrine, as may swing the state government from her moorings. The arguments, the cavils, the insinuations, the misrepresentations, the falsehoods of our opponents, should be answered with fairness, repelled with truth, opposed with dignity, and controverted by facts. The late fortunate events, which have taken place in regard to our most vital interests with foreign powers, will be turned to party misrepresentations and exaggerations, and produce their full quota of errours and lies in the democratick papers. We shall consider it a permanent duty to undertake the consideration and refutation of all such palpable errours, subtle insinuations, and petty arts, of which, by what we have already observed, we are soon to discover an ample quantity. That the dignity and utility of this employment may not be denied; let it be recollected that the very Lord Grenville, now so much extolled by democracy, was formerly engaged in a work, together with Mr. Canning, the express object of which was to refute the falsehoods, unfold the baseness, and expose the cunning of the papers in opposition to Mr. Pitt. Though the success of the ANTI-JACOBIN, in England, may perhaps afford no security of the success of a similar attempt in this country, from various reasons, yet it is manifest, that the multiplied falsehoods, with which the democratick columns are polluted, require as effectual a remedy as ever they did in that country, and perhaps have as powerful an influence upon publick opinion. It may be thought necessary to confine ourselves generally to such subjects as may have an immediate influence on the approaching election; but we shall expose errours on general politicks or which relate to more remote events, as well as such as call for our immediate interference.

AUSTRIAN AND FRENCH TROOPS.

THE cloud of war which begins to rise in the western horizon of Europe, has perhaps already burst upon the countries it overshadows, in a torrent of desolation and carnage. The Austrian armies under the Arch-Duke Charles, one of the best generals of the day, under a new system of tacticks, which that officer has introduced since the last unhappy contest in Germany, from which anxious Europe has fruitlessly expected her emancipation and her safety, are probably at this moment struggling against the victorious forces of Napoleon. Austria has not been able to exist as an independent state, since the treaty of Luneville, the dismemberment of the coalition in 1805-6; or rather the want of affinity and cohesion in its very materials, has placed her in a situation in which she cannot exist without dishonour, and in which she cannot continue to exist without manifest danger. Notwithstanding the predictions of Gentz, in 1806, that the unconquered powers of Europe 'are no longer at liberty to run counter to their interests, and the confederacy must continue to exist from the nature and force of things,' yet Austria alone, of the powers then unconquered, seems the only one willing to resist the concentrated torrent of the French power.

If she had risen with all her might six months ago, the desponding world could then have hoped for success; the Spanish patriots would then have been materially relieved from the pressure of the whole weight of the French empire, and Europe might be again reanimated and awakened from the sleep of death. Our hopes are now feeble indeed, and the abilities of the Arch-Duke, the new system of tacticks, the necessity of *aggressive* hostility with which Austria must be impressed, together with our most ardent desires and impressions of the justice of her cause, cannot afford a gleam of expectation by which they can be enlivened. When the energy of one man is considered, who wields the most formidable power which the modern world has ever seen; when we think of the promptitude and decision with which this power is made to operate; and on the other hand, the weakness of a distracted cabinet, the inferiour numbers of the Austrian troops, and their continual defeats, when opposed to the French, we find such drawbacks on our desires, that all

ideas derived from mere favourable aspect of the cause, are to the last degree sickly and inanimate. The following characteristicks of the Austrian, compared with French soldiers, extracted from a celebrated work, entitled '*Charactere des armés Européene*, will perhaps be generally amusing at this critical moment.

'The French soldiers who are more active, more enterprizing and ready in availing themselves of every advantage of ground, will hang round bodies of men that are much more numerous than themselves; they molest, harass, and advance upon them by means of the smallest shelter. The Austrians, in the mean time, preserve their rank and file; but their oblique firing has not the least effect upon men who are either scattered about, or advantageously posted; while every discharge of the latter, being levelled at a considerable body, cannot fail of telling. When the Austrians advance, the riflemen withdraw, but return to the charge as soon as the Austrians retire again: the Austrian troop is thus harassed by an enemy that keeps out of its reach, and whose numbers, upon looking at the extent of ground which they occupy, appear more considerable than they really are. This method of fighting continues until the losses they have experienced, and the inutility of resistance, produce discouragement and confusion; and at length, the troops, overwhelmed with fatigue, and thrown into disorder, either disperse, or lay down their arms. The French who would not have dared to meet these same Austrians in open field, have often defeated and taken thousands of them with some hundreds of men only; for the instant their ranks are broken, the Austrians become like a flock of sheep dispersed, and incapable of reuniting. The coolness of the Austrian is inexplicable. The humiliation of surrendering their arms does not seem to affect them any more than the dangers of a battle. One would suppose, in considering their indifference, that it was nothing but the *finale* of a pantomime or ballet. 'The Austrians carry their fear of being outflanked or turned, to a degree which is at once ridiculous and extravagant; it might indeed be called a national disorder or weakness. They fancy themselves outflanked, or enveloped at the very moment in which they might surround those who have had the rashness to outrun them. This excessive apprehension disconcerts their plans, and drives them to retrograde movements at a time when, in order to beat the enemy, they have only to advance upon him.'

COUNTER OPINIONS.

THE opinions of the Ex-President ADAMS in relation to the French people and the British government have produced very high-strained compliments from the democratick leaders. He is now the patriot without stain or reproach, who formerly was a "hoary-headed incendiary." If he has changed his principles, let those, who admired his firmness and energy in 1798, seriously enquire whether, when he was in the full and vigorous enjoyment of his faculties, he was not probably as correct in his opinions, as at this moment, when he can condescend to reply to two obscure democrats in Northampton, whom he had never seen in his life. Here follows some extracts from the opinions of Mr. Adams, after the return of our ambassadours from the French Republick.

'As I have ever wished to avoid as far as prudence and necessity would permit, every concealment from my fellow citizens, of my real sentiments, in matters of importance, I will venture to ask you whether it is consistent with the peace we have made, the friendship we have stipulated, or even with civility, to express a marked resentment to a foreign power who is at war with another, whose ill will we experience every day, and who will, very probably in a few weeks, be acknowledged an enemy in the sense of the law of nations? A power too, which invariably acknowledged us to be a nation for fifteen years; a power that has never had the insolence to reject our ambassadours; a power that at present convoys our trade and their own at the same time.'

The power, which he here so highly extols, is that very Great Britain, which he now so violently denounces. Observe what he says of France.

'For delaying counsels, the constitution has not made me responsible; but while I am entrusted with my present powers, and bound by my present obligations, *you shall see no more delusive negociations.* The safe keeping of American independence is in the energy of its spirit and resources. In my opinion, as well as yours, there is no alternative between war and submission to the Executive of France.'

'If the French will become the enemies of all mankind, by forcing all nations to follow their example, in the subversion of all the political, religious, and social institutions, which time, experience, and freedom have sanctioned, they ought to be opposed by every country, that has any pretensions to principle, spirit, or patriotism.'

'The real question before us seems to be, whether we shall involve ourselves in an unjust and unnecessary war of offence against one nation,—Or, be involved by the fraud and violence of another, in a just and necessary war of defence.—Besides, how many nations who have never injured, insulted or offended us are we to assist or contribute to destroy?"

ADVERSARIA.

Quid est, quod negligenter scribamus adversaria?—Cic.

PRAYERS.

I WISH that some of our clergymen, who are habituated to praying "an hour by the dial," would commit their prayers to memory, or to writing. In either case, an immense saving of time would be the consequence. Though I am no churchman, and hate the reading of prayers in publick worship, yet I would prefer a simple written form to an extemporaneous one, which is lengthened out with frequent tiresome pauses, and made disgusting by the most absurd and tautological repetitions, till *dulness can no louder snore*. Such prayers, instead of kindling, extinguish the flame of devotion. Instead of fixing the mind "on heaven and things above," they excite but little attention even among the most sober-minded of the hearers; and are fit objects for ridicule and laughter amongst those who are less devout.

If a clergyman, from want of words or of thought, is obliged to repeat the same prayer SIX TIMES a day, why not give it to his people in writing, and let every one read it for himself? This method would at least have one advantage—if his imagination should wander from the subject, it would be in the power of some of the congregation to set him right. It would, also, shorten the usual time of publick worship one third: and surely this time might be more profitably spent in any other manner or place, than in the indulgence of peevishness of temper or levity of conduct in the HOUSE OF GOD.

This subject is recommended to the serious contemplation of those whom it may concern.

SECTARIAN BLASPHEMY.

It is a subject of equal regret and mortification, that the religious enthusiasm, with which this country seems destined to be infected, should have attained to such outrageous extravagance and blasphemy among its sincere believers. It were seriously to be wished that the prostration and humility of mind, with which the Deity and his attributes should be mentioned, had never been displaced by a canting, familiar, and flippant conversation with heavenly beings, which has of late years disgraced many religious conventicles, and shocked the feelings of rational christians in every class of society. The manner in which some itinerant enthusiasts pretend to talk to the Deity, the expressions they utter, and the contortions of their bodies, are so disgusting and horrible to all the nicer feelings of christians, that we cannot speak of them without expressing, in the strongest language, indignation at their profanations. Let any rational man go into one of the midnight "conference meetings" of these enthusiasts; let him hear their language to the Deity, let him observe their conduct; and then let him undertake to repeat what he has heard and seen, and we venture to say, that the horrid blasphemies he would be obliged to utter in the relation would deter him from proceeding. All the low, mean, and disgusting allusions in human life are connected with the sublime attributes of God and his providence; and oftentimes, an ignorant, vain, and vehement preacher will use such language before his Maker, that every rational christian must tremble before the magnitude of his impiety, in the "undissembled homage of deferential horrour."

MASTER PAYNE

HAS finished his performances at the Boston Theatre, with great credit to himself, and satisfaction to the publick. He has played eight important dramatick characters,* with various success; in some of them, the powers he evinced were absolutely astonishing; in others he was deficient in force of utterance and identity of conception; but in all of them, his "defects were only as dust in the ascending scale of his merits."

* Norval, Zaphna, Romeo, Selim, Octavian, Tancred, Hamlet, and Rolla.

POETRY.

THE state of Connecticut is an example of an adherence to her original principles, highly honourable to that people, and the primitive integrity of their character. Like the needle, they have continued pointed directly to the polar star of Federalism, amidst the storms and tempests which surrounded them. The times demand that such a state should be exalted by the approbation of the wise and good. The following lines are extracted from a publication which originated in that very state, and does equal credit to the talents as well as principles by which it was conducted.

CONNECTICUT.

'And here, in erring reason's spite,
'Mid storms of truth, and floods of light,
Unmov'd by threats, unaw'd by fears,
CONNECTICUT her front uprears.
On democratick frontiers plac'd,
By spirits base and foul disgrac'd,
Annoy'd with Jacobinick engines,
And doom'd to governmental vengeance,
Strait on her course she firmly steers,
Nor gibes, nor tacks, nor scuds, nor veers,
Not the whole force they all can wield,
Can drive her vet'rans from the field.
The same pure, patriotick fires,
Which warm'd the bosoms of their sires,
That generous, that effulgent flame,
Which glow'd in Winthrop's deathless name,
Unsullied through their bosoms runs,
Inspires and animates her sons.'

WE have been considerably gratified with the perusal of an unfinished manuscript Poem, entitled 'A POLITICAL PRIMER, *composed in a new patent rhyming machine, and stuffed with most touching tropes and classick doggerel, by* TOBY TINGLE, Esq.' It consists chiefly of apostrophes to celebrated political characters in the United States. We shall endeavour to procure this poem, when complete, for the amuse-

ment of our readers. In the mean time we present them with the following short extract, copied from the manuscript by permission of the author.

****** stand forth!
Thy matchless worth
Will stuff each Demo's clay-poll,
Here, and in France,
While demons dance
Round Pandemonium's May-pole.

Lank man of lath,
Writhing with wrath,
Slander's High-Priest, canonical!
Hell smiles to see
Thy piety
Lighting her shrine, the *Chronicle*.

Lanthern of spite,
Beaming grim light,
Blotting heaven's face with greenness;
Thou man's eclipse,
Thy shadow tips
Nature with livid leanness.

Like Tinto's waves,*
A frost stream laves
Thy cold heart so congenial,
That, strange to sight;
'Twill stones unite—
Thy master and his menial.

On death's dark bed,
Ere thou—hope dead—
By fiends from life art hurried;
Then, miscreant, know,
The world thy foe,
Without one friend, thou'rt buried.

* TINTO, a river of Spain, whose waters have the power of cementing stones.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 18.] SATURDAY, MAY 6, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POLITICAL.

'If the British government has nothing more in view than it is willing to avow, it cannot refuse to concur in an arrangement rescinding on her part the Orders in Council; and on ours the embargo. If France does *not* concur, the Orders will be better enforced by the continuance of the embargo against her, than they are by the British fleet and cruizers, and in the mean time, all the benefits of our trade will be thrown into the lap of Great-Britain.—[*Letter from Mr. Madison to Mr. Pinckney, dated January* 18, 1808.]

'The prosperity of America is essential to the prosperity of Great-Britain. When those adjustments shall take place to which, though unfortunately not practicable at this moment, nor under the conditions prescribed by Mr. Pinckney, the undersigned confidently looks forward; it will perhaps be no insecure pledge for the continuance of the good understanding between the two countries, that they have learnt duly to appreciate each other's friendship; and that it will not hereafter be imputed to Great-Britain either on the one hand that she envies American industry as prejudicial to British commerce, or on the other, that she is *compelled* to court an intercourse with America as absolutely necessary to her own existence.—[*Letter from Mr. Canning to Mr. Pinckney, dated September* 23, 1808.

FALSEHOODS.

'It was by the exertions of our government, and by President Jefferson's EMBARGO that our difficulties with England were settled, and not by the rebellious conduct of the tories. Had there been no tories, no Englishmen in our country, the business would have been settled many months ago. To the jacobinical opposition to government, and their violations of the Embargo, must be attributed the delays which have taken place.'

Chronicle, May 1.

'With peculiar pleasure does every free, candid, and enlightened American perceive that the policy of President Jefferson has saved the United States from the horrors and calamities of war. His measure of the *Embargo* has had the effect intended. It has obliged the British government to recede from the unjust ground it had taken; and to repeal the orders against American commerce. Had it not been for the ravings of an insurgent faction; the British would have given up the point twelve months ago.'

Chronicle, May 1.

Such unblushing assertions confront us in every column of the Chronicle; they contain every argument of the democratick party. The points they endeavour to establish are these:

1st. That the Embargo has coerced Great-Britain so severely, that she has been obliged to concede 'the Orders in Council,' in obedience to our demands.

2d. The opposition of the Federalists has occasioned all the delay which government has experienced; and but for them 'the business would have been settled many months ago.'

Leaving out all attempt at confuting the minor scurrility of this vehicle of slander, such as the epithets of 'tories,' 'jacobinical opposition,' 'rebellious conduct,' 'ravings of an insurgent faction,' which may have great weight with the Chronicle scribblers in the way of argument, we shall confine ourselves to the consideration of the two points we have ſtated, and by a reference to official documents and common sense, we imagine we shall be able to establish the falsehood of the assertions so universally circulated in favour of Mr. Jefferson, and in hostility to the Federalists.

It is manifest that the first enquiry to be made upon the subject under consideration is, what has Great-Britain conceded to us, by agreeing to relinquish the Orders in council, provided we shall repeal the non-intercourse act in her favour? For if it appear that she has not yielded any thing to us, and if it appear that she has gained a great deal by this arrangement, it will not be contended that the embargo has had any material effect in respect to coercion. By enquiring what were the motives which induced Great-Britain to adopt the measure of the Orders in Council, we may be able to discover what she now yields by not enforcing them any longer. In pursuing this enquiry, we naturally revert back to the ſtate of things immediately previous to the Embargo measure, and the promulgation of the Orders. We find the distresses of the West Indian colonies had reduced the planter to the last state of desperation; and the irritation of those in the West-Indian interests against the American trade from the French colonies to France, had been evinced in numerous pamphlets, requiring the ministry to adopt the measure under consideration. These complaints at length became so clamorous and loud, that many committees were appointed by the House of Commons upon the subject; and the last report of the committee of that body, 'On the commercial state of the West-India Islands,' has been made publick. It was published about a month previous to the date of the Orders in Council of Nov. 11, 1807, and it appears very clearly that the recommendations of this committee had a very powerful influence in inducing the ministry to adopt the policy contained in those Orders. This will be made apparent by a reference to the report of the committee itself.

After enumerating the evils sustained by the West-Indian Planter, in the cultivation of his estates, and proving from the most authentick evidence, that the proceeds of the produce would not pay the cost of cultivation, the committee proceed to assert that 'the result of all their enquiries on this most important part of the subject, have brought before their eyes, *one grand and primary evil*, from which all the others are easily to be deduced; namely, the *facility of intercourse between the hostile colonies and Europe, under the American neutral flag*, by means of which not only the whole of their produce is carried to a market, but at charges little exceeding those of peace; while the British planter is burthened with all the inconvenience, risk, and expense resulting from a state of war.' It states the imports from the United States into Amsterdam alone, in the year 1806, to have been 34,085 hhds. sugar, and that the charges on the articles through the United States of America, from the hostile colonies, were less by 11s. 8d. per cwt. than those charges on British sugar to the same port.' The committee then observe, that 'in order to counterbalance in some degree the disadvantages thus enjoyed by the hostile colonies to the detriment of the British planter, it has been recommended, *that a blockade of the ports of the enemies settlements* should be resorted to; but,' they continue, 'a measure of *more permanent* and certain advantage, would be *the enforcement of those restrictions on the trade between neutrals and the enemies colonies*, which were formerly maintained by Great-Britain, and from the relaxation of which the enemies colonies obtain indirectly during war, all the advantages of peace. It appears to your committee to be a matter of evident and imperious necessity to resort to such a system, as by impeding and restricting, and as far as possible preventing the export of the produce of the enemies colonies from the places of its growth, *shall compel the continent* to have recourse to the only source of supply which in that event would be open to it.'

Without intending to enter into a justification of the principles or policy conveyed by these recommendations, we mean to assert that they held out the greatest inducement which operated on the British government ultimately to adopt the measure. The motives therefore, which prevailed upon Great-Britain to pursue this kind of restrictive policy, no matter how unjust it might be, were evidently to restrain the American trade in the colonial produce of her enemies and thereby relieve her own subjects from a pressure of distress, unequalled in the annals of her colonies. The consequences were, that after the orders in council were issued, sugar and coffee began to rise in England, the demand on the continent was imperious for those articles, and great quantities were conveyed over to Holland in a clandestine manner. So that long before the Report of the committee of the House of Commons in respect to the distillation of that article instead of grain had appeared, sugar experienced an augmentation in price of at least 19s. per cwt. This rise,

if it operate only on half the quantity imported into Great-Britain, would amount to 6,370,000 dollars. The cost of the *American* supplies in the cultivation of sugar does not amount to but about one seventh of the whole charge. Thus, 'the sums paid on seven sugar estates in Jamaica, for American supplies in 1806, during that and the three preceding years, amount to a total of 8797, and the whole expences of the same estates during that period amounted to 62,550 dollars.' The greatest effect of the embargo, therefore, upon the West Indies would be to deprive them of one seventh part of their whole supplies, which of course they would be obliged to resort to other countries to obtain.

The Orders in Council, however, were adopted under the firmest conviction that our government would pass a non-intercourse or embargo law, and under a full persuasion of the greatest difficulties they would be obliged to encounter, from its most rigorous operation. This will very clearly appear from the examination of many gentlemen engaged in the West-Indian traffick before the committee of the House of Commons; and it will also be rendered very apparent by the following extract from the report of the committee just mentioned:

'As it may be apprehended that from the adoption of such measures, difficulties might arise in that intercourse from which the West Indies at present derive a considerable proportion of the sum of their supplies, your committee have thought it their duty to make enquiry into the resources in that respect, *to which recourse might be had in such an event*. During the only period which affords an example of the suspension of that intercourse, the evidence concurs as to the fact of a supply having been obtained (though not without temporary and casual inconveniencies) from a variety of sources which may reasonably be relied upon in case of such necessity at the present moment to a greater amount than at the former period.' They then remark that although the American supplies are important to the West Indies, yet that the trade 'is not essential to their existence, or equivalent to the disadvantages of their situation in these respects, which your committee have gone through in the present statement.'

The Milan decree of 17 Dec. 1807, by Napoleon, soon followed the Orders in Council, by which all neutral vessels which may have been searched by an English ship, are declared to become English property, and of course good prize. A rigorous blockade of the French colonies was established soon after; and our embargo measure was adopted about the same time. In our enquiries therefore as to what Great-Britain has yielded to us, we cannot but remark that those reasons which we have been able to discover, which induced her to adopt the Orders in Council, are exactly as strong in favour of the present state of things. The American commerce is just as much restrained now as it was under their operation, the English West Indian colo-

nies are more effectually relieved, as they now freely obtain our supplies, which will contribute to diminish the cost of their sugar; whilst the manufacturer at home will enjoy all the custom of which he was deprived by the embargo. The blockade of the French colonies and the Milan Decree render the Orders in Council a dead letter; they had no real effect in restraining neutral commerce, and had only an obnoxious one in point of principle. By relinquishing them as soon as the tenor of our non-intercourse law afforded them a fair opportunity, the British ministry have not only lost nothing, but have secured to themselves many benefits. In reality Mr. Canning has played a very subtle game; for under the present aspect of affairs, 'he secures all the advantages which the most rigid adherence to the Orders in Council, would have produced; the colonial trade of his enemy, by means of the neutral is stopped, the neutral commerce is sufficiently restrained by Napoleon himself, and he receives therefore the whole odium which the restraint excites. Whilst Great-Britain, in addition to the other real and comparative advantages we have mentioned, will enjoy all the benefits of our trade, which a state of affairs, the most unrestricted, could confer. Beside all this, the reparation she has made for the national aggression, in the Chesapeak attack, has produced a favourable impression on the minds of the American people, whilst France is placed by the non-intercourse law, in precisely a similar situation to that of Great-Britain, before that reparation was accepted.

The question which we proposed to discuss, whether the embargo had obliged Great-Britain to concede the Orders in Council, in our favour, has now received an obvious and satisfactory reply. We cannot discover that she has relinquished any thing, but has gained much; in fact the arrangement is a master-stroke of policy; but admitting a concession to have been made, we cannot admit the embargo to have been instrumental in obtaining it, because the Orders were promulgated under the impression of some such retaliatory measure, and because the operation of it has secured many benefits to those very peculiar interests in Great-Britain, to favour which, the Orders in Council were first promulgated. The embargo came in aid of the West-Indian planter, most effectually.

We are now led to confute the assertion, that but for the opposition of the Federalists, the British would have 'given up the point twelve months ago.' This may be opposed by asking, what point have the British given up? If we are answered, the reparation for the Chesapeak attack, we answer that but for the Federal opposition to the *last* Embargo bill, the French and English would never have been placed upon terms of equality in the non-intercourse law. And it is difficult to imagine that unless the proclamation of the President respecting that outrage had been repealed, or unless France were made equally the aggressor by some publick instrument, Great-Britain could after-

wards offer reparation, in the face of the very instrument, the existence of which had been the only previous obstacle to the adjustment. But if the Federal writers have such wonderful genius as to be able to deter foreign governments from pursuing what their opponents conceive to be the obvious cause of their policy, how will the democrats admit the inference, that they 'have no power nor influence in our national councils?' But the federalists evaded the embargo laws, and thereby prevented its coercive effects. Then the effects have not been so very coercive after all? But will any democratick writer be so bold as unequivocally to declare, that men of *any particular* party were distinguished by evasions of the laws? We know that the Federalists opposed those UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAWS by *constitutional* means; but we undertake to assert that they paid as much real respect and observance to those laws as any set of men in the nation.

TEXT.

The 'federalists,' have had no power nor influence in our national councils for eight years past.' *Chronicle, May* 1, 1809.

COMMENT.

Their exertions (of the federalists) have been solely confined to doggerel paragraph writing; which has been as weak as their cause is despicable; and the *only effect* of which has been *the keeping on the Embargo for the last twelve months.* *Chronicle May* 1, 1089.

These two paragraphs contradict each other; the last proves the assertion contained in the first to be a falsehood; for if the 'federalists have had no influence in our national councils,' how could their writings have had any effect in 'keeping on the embargo?' Surely in so far as relates to their influence on the national government, the writings of the federalists were impotent indeed! And if the embargo policy were persisted in *consequence of such writings*, the conduct of the government must have been the result of *ignorance or spite.* In so far as this conclusion is just, we shall not deny the force of the Chronicle assertion; we have always maintained that the majority in Congress were both *ignorant and vindictive.* The expression above might be thus changed; 'The federalists by their writings maintained such an influence on the national councils, that through spite, and ignorance of the welfare of the country, the government keep on a ruinous embargo for *twelve months longer than it was required;* (thus far should the Chronicle have proceeded; and we would have added) for which they have justly incurred the determined hatred of all the wise and good men in the community.

DECLPTION.

'They' (the federalists), have even gone so far, as to threaten, that unless the government took off the embargo, declared war against

France, and submission to British tribute and taxation, they would dissolve the union, and *give the northern section to Britain.*'

Chronicle, May 1.

This assertion is plainly and unequivocally made in the Chronicle, and yet the writer talks about the deceptions and lies of the federalists. Such are the weapons with which we are assailed. The cause which can only be supported by misrepresentations so apparent, and falsehoods so glaring, evinces its own inherent corruption.

MISREPRESENTATION.

'So far from the president being now called on to repeal his proclamation before any overtures are made, the whole business is explicitly stated in the first communication and the ground work of all the preliminary articles are offered for the consideration of the government. It seems then, that the late mission carefully avoided the former difficulty; and finding that the spirit of the government would not yield to such humiliating terms as were proposed by Mr. Rose, Mr. Erskine began in the first instance to tell what his majesty would do, before he could expect the president to relinquish our demands or relax in our measures.' *Chronicle, May* 1.

There was no necessity for demanding a repeal of the Proclamation; the non-intercourse formed a virtual repeal. If, according to the democrats, France had committed no outrages as violent as those of the British, surely a law which raised France to the same level of aggression with Great-Britain, is fairly to be considered tantamount to a repeal of the proclamation itself. It contains the very prohibitions against French ships, which the attack on the Chesapeak produced against English ships. We restore the equilibrium as effectually by adding weight to one side of the balance as by diminishing it on the other.

But we had done more, we had made a previous suggestion to Mr. Canning, that if he would repeal the Orders in Council, as far as regarded America, the embargo, as far as regarded England, would be removed. So in the non-intercourse law, the same principle is recognized without any condition relative to the Chesapeak annexed to it. It is provided by the 11th Sec. of that law, that in case, 'either France or England shall so revoke or modify her edicts as that they shall cease to violate the neutral commerce of the United States, 'the President is authorised to declare the same by proclamation; after which the trade may be renewed by the nation so conducting.' The offer in respect to the Chesapeak, was therefore unsolicited, the negociations would have gone on without it, the trade would have been renewed without it, (according to the non-intercourse law, and the proposals made by Mr. Pinckney) so that all the merit which can attach to a candid disavowal and *free and unexpected* reparation for an injury, must be ascribed to the British Govern ment.

As we cannot understand what is meant by the term 'the ground work to all the preliminary articles,' being offered for consideration, we shall not attempt to refute or explain it.

The extract from the non-intercourse law which we have offered, is abundant proof of the falsehood of the assertion, which implies a necessity on the part of Mr. Erskine 'to tell, in the first instance what his majesty would do, before he could expect the president to relinquish our demands or relax in our measures.' The law itself had already 'relaxed our measures,' and we had assumed an *aspect* of equality, which (Great-Britain taking the earliest advantage of it) will probably oblige France to declare war against the United States. So much for the concessions we have obtained from Great-Britain.

THE NEGOCIATION.

AMONG all the clamours of the democratick party in relation to the concessions of Great-Britain; they are perfectly silent in respect to our own. We do not mean to maintain that our government have not done strictly right, in silently submitting to a state of circumstances which they could not control; all we assert is, that our former secretary of state has made many *real* concessions, which are quite as derogatory to our government as the *presumed* concessions on the part of the British. In his letter of instruction to Mr. Munroe, in Jan. 1804, Mr. Madison told the minister that unless our claims to the immunity of the flag in merchant ships were conceded to us even in the narrow seas, the negociation would then '*be at an end.*' The negociation did not end. On the same subject the secretary writes thus, in 1806, 'so indispensable is some adequate provision for the case, that the president makes it a necessary preliminary to any stipulation, requiring a repeal of the non-importation act.' Yet when the British peremptorily refused the admission of such a claim, *President Jefferson directed Mr. Madison* to instruct the minister to suffer 'the negociation to terminate *without any formal compact whatever.*' After this, however, we see negociations about to be renewed, notwithstanding the British proclamation respecting deserters, in which our claims on the subject are forever foreclosed. Concessions, therefore, on the very point which has engaged the best talents of the two governments for more than five years, are now made by us without any noise. The negociation is to be renewed notwithstanding all our threats; and then the great obstacle to an amicable issue, will be the British proclamation. That subject will exhaust a few years more in controversy before we come to a definitive settlement, and then, we venture to predict, we shall allow the British

to search for their own seamen on board our merchant ships; they giving bonds as the last rejected treaty contemplated, that the American sailor shall not be molested.

On the subject of reparation for the Chesapeak attack, we are forcibly instructed in the manner in which concessions have been made from time to time, which we dare say the democrats would wish were forever blotted from the pages of the publick documents.

First, in his letter of April 4, 1808, addressed to Mr. Pinckney, Mr. Madison, after noticing the correspondence of Mr. Rose, and the posture in which the final reply of that minister had placed the question of adjustment, observes, that the reparation should be made in America, 'but the president authorizes you to accept the reparation' *there*, (England) 'provided it be tendered spontaneously, be charged with no condition, unless it be that on the receipt of the act of reparation here, the proclamation of July 2 shall be revoked. Still it is to be understood' (on the subject of the orders in council) 'that whilst the insult offered in the attack on the American frigate remains unexpiated, you are not to pledge or commit your government to consider a recall of the orders as a ground on which a removal of the existing restrictions on the commerce of the United States might be justly expected.' The government made this stand, which seems to have been very cautiously examined; but the post we shall soon see was not tenable. In his letter to Mr. Pinckney of April 30, 1808, only twenty-six days after, Mr. Madison directs him in the event of the orders in council being rescinded, as they applied to the United States, and without any other condition being implied, 'to authorize an expectation that the president will, within a reasonable time, give effect to the authority vested in him on the subject of the embargo laws.' Lest any doubt should remain as to the phrase 'authorize an expectation,' the secretary speaks of such 'a course being taken by the British government as will render a suspension of the embargo *certain* or probable.' Here then was an authority to restore our intercourse with Great-Britain, without reference to the Chesapeak insult, which was included in his letter of July 18, 1808, in the term, 'other salutary adjustments.' Mr. Pinckney, accordingly, did on the 23d of August offer to Mr. Canning on behalf of the American government, 'to suspend the embargo law and its supplements, as regarded Great-Britain, in case that nation repealed her orders.' He said he was authorized 'to give this assurance in the most formal manner.' It was at this time that the advocates of the embargo in America began to doubt of its efficacy in coercing Great-Britain, and Mr. Canning's reply, Sept. 23, to the proposal of Mr. Pinckney, completely satisfied them of the propriety of their doubts. After regretting the unfortunate operation of the orders in council, and stating the question relating to that measure, Mr. Canning proceeds respecting the embargo; 'his majesty sees nothing, in the embargo laid on by the president of the

United States of America, which varies the original and simple state of the question.' He continues, 'his majesty does not conceive that he has any right or pretension to make any complaint of it, and he has made none. But in this light' (as a municipal regulation, in which Mr. Pinckney had considered it all along) 'there appears not only no reciprocity but no assignable relation between the repeal by the United States, of a measure of voluntary self-restriction, and the surrender by his majesty of his right of retaliation against his enemies.'

We talk of receiving concessions, when we have made those of the greatest importance ourselves; we say that Great-Britain is at our feet, but we may hereafter find ourselves egregiously mistaken.

We are told we have gained much, but we cannot discover that we have gained anything. The great topicks of controversy, have been the colonial trade, and the immunity of the flag; we should be glad to know what advantages we have obtained, or are likely to obtain upon these subjects. Or in what respects has Great-Britain relinquished the most minute commercial advantage to this country? She has not relinquished one. Her claims in respect to the colonial trade, are manifestly unjust; but we have not obtained any relief on this subject. Why then are the exultations of the democrats so very high toned, when we are in no respect better situated than we might have been a year ago, if we had adopted the federal policy?

THE CHRONICLE.

WE are rapt in frequent astonishment at the profundity of the editorial remarks in the Chronicle. The general principles of politicks and the laws of nations or of truth are to be sure very seldom regarded, they are viewed with dignified disdain, and if ever approached, are kept at a convenient distance; but yet the observations are in themselves so original, and hurry the mind along in so copious a current of imagination, that though you often cannot grant a ready assent to the reasoning, the conclusions which result are certainly irresistible. We shall offer from the Chronicle of Thursday, some examples of the style, intelligence and profound thinking to which we have alluded.—There is one paragraph which is couched in the following manner:

'The reconciliation between the United States and England is an act which appears to please all parties; the first thing of the kind which has occurred for a great while, and is certainly very honourable for the administration.'

Common readers perhaps will not so readily observe the art with which this sentence is constructed. Instead of declaring it 'an act which pleases all parties,' the author was determined not to commit himself, so he qualifies it thus, '*appears* to please all parties;' it may

be, says he to himself, that we hereafter may become dissatisfied with the arrangement, and this opinion will be cast in our teeth. The writer proceeds: 'the first *thing of the kind* which has occurred for a great while.' This must be generally admitted to be profound. What *thing of the kind* does the writer mean? Why the reconciliation. The reconciliation then, is a thing of some kind, but what that kind is, must be discovered in some other part of the paper. It is a something which has before occurred, but that happened a *great while* ago; therefore, the something which 'occurred a great while ago' is the *thing*, of which the present reconciliation is a *kind*.

Another instance of profound remark is to be discovered in a communication signed *South Abington*, in which the writer, after mentioning that the federalists by 'their exertions of sophistry and misrepresentations have elected' Mr. Gore as chief magistrate of Massachusetts, makes this declaration; 'by similar means they have succeeded in the election of a Lieutenant Governour and Senators, a majority of whom will undoubtedly second any motion that shall be originated by his excellency to increase their popularity and heighten the prosperity and happiness of their constituents.' It would undoubtedly be singular indeed, that *any* motion should be *originated* by his Excellency in the Senate of Massachusetts, where he has no power or legal authority; but it is much more singular that a majority of this very Senate should have it advanced as a charge against them, that they would 'second any motion' which shall be originated 'to heighten the prosperity and happiness of their constituents.' Does the writer mean to infer that a democratick majority would *destroy or diminish* that 'prosperity and happiness?'

The same writer remarks that the federalists have 'accused the government of partiality towards the belligerent powers.' We never heard of their partiality to more than *one* of the belligerent powers; where the other partiality is to be found, remains to be decided by this writer; yet he proceeds to declare that 'all of which observations have been proclaimed and reproclaimed in most if not all the federal prints from Maine to Georgia.' Now, though we should defy them to produce these federal papers, where 'this partiality to the belligerent powers' has been thus 'proclaimed and reproclaimed,' yet we have no doubt they would shelter themselves under the impenetrable shield of profundity and incomprehensibility, to which we have just alluded.

MUSICK.

THE peculiar characteristicks of this science are many, and foreign authors have vied with each other in producing sounds and effects the most striking; we cannot however avoid passing encomiums upon real merit whether assisted by nature or art.

The Irish muse has been particularly successful in affording a peculiar wildness in notes, tones and transitions: if excellence of composition is estimated by the effect on the mind, or its influence over the heart, the Irish melodies graduate to a high degree. Carolan was wonderfully happy in his effusions; great conception, exquisite feeling, and his flights of fancy combined with his genius, will ever entitle him to that celebrity which his countrymen have universally bestowed.—He was an itinerant bard of much eminence, and considered as the Anacreon of his country; his 'Smee Shum Lourther an noig Whnee Planaty Power,' or 'Leave me not Love,' and 'Mas think no Shlaun la Warlagh me,' or 'Oh let me hush thy tender fears,' are two Airs that in their native country 'spread the light of song over the gloom of unillumined ignorance,' and in their tendency soften the ferocity of uncivilized heroism. The musick and poetry of the Irish are analagous, and their sounds faithfully echo their sense; the difficulty of attempting English translations to Irish melodies is universally acknowledged, but the success which Mr. Hewitt has met with, in endeavouring to harmonize several favourite airs from the Irish bard, deserves not only commendation, but entitles him to the respect of every amateur in the science of musick. The facility with which he has arranged the wildness of the melodies of the Bards of Erin, seem to have been executed with a degree of taste and elegance rarely to be met with in this, and seldom in the European world.

The lovers of musick anxiously expect the return of this gentleman to this metropolis, in the ensuing autumn, that they may be afforded an opportunity of bestowing upon real merit its due reward.'

LITERARY NOTICES.

JOHNSON'S WORKS.

Messrs. Oliver C. Greenleaf and Edward Cotton intend to publish the works of Doctor Johnson, in eight octavo volumes; they will issue proposals immediately.

The works of Johnson are a necessary appendage to the library of every English gentleman and scholar; and it is rather singular that they have never until now been offered for publication in the United States. The Rambler, the Lives of the Poets, and the Notes on Shakespeare, have indeed been severally published in this country; but to the admirers of the great moralist, it seems necessary to preserve all his writings in a body, that they may be unfolded at one view. The writings of Doctor Johnson are marked by an original cast both in thought and expression, which have distinguished him, as one of the most extraordinary men which his age or country has produced. The

researches of his industry were no less remarkable than the perspicuity of his intellect. Doctor Johnson was at one time the boast of every literary man in England; and to have produced him, was considered almost as much an honour to his country, as that conferred by the talents of Shakespeare and Milton. If they were the greatest English poets, he was the greatest English critick, that had ever existed.

The works of such a man must surely command the attention of every reader. We are therefore highly gratified in contemplating the prospect which this publication unfolds.

THE LIFE OF MRS. ELIZABETH CARTER, is now in the press, and will shortly be published by O. C. Greenleaf, in one large octavo volume. To the scholar, and even to the general reader, the life of the pious author of the translator of Epictetus will be equally interesting and instructive. The circumstances by which it was distinguished are not very remarkable, but they derive peculiar interest from the importance of the subject and the manner in which they are recorded. The letters of our authoress, with which it is occasionally interspersed, afford a forcible example of true epistolary style, whilst they indicate the strength of her mind and excellence of her character.

THE STAGE.

PANTOMIME AND MELO-DRAME.

OF all the perversions of taste, whether it be considered in relation to poetry, eloquence, painting, architecture, the stage, or any other object of that faculty, we cannot call to mind any more striking absurdity than that passion for extravagant show, and nonsensical pantomimick exhibitions which are the fashion of the times. It is said of theatrical exhibitions that they excite sympathy by a certain selfish illusion of the imagination, which places us for a time in the situation of the object of our sympathy. We experience, though in a less degree, the same kind of emotion which a real exhibition of events would produce. But in the monsters of the Pantomime and Melo-Drame, there can be no laudable pleasure, nor true feelings excited; they gratify our baser thoughts, and please our distempered fancies. They please as the stories of hobgoblins please children, or the stories of modern novelists love-sick girls; but surely afford the reason no rational delight.—Churchill is very happy in the Rosciad, in describing the absurdities of Pantomime; the more monstrous *Melo-Drame* was not then in being.

'Harlequin comes, their chief! see from afar,
The hero seated in fantastick car;
Wedded to novelty, his only arms
Are wooden swords, wands, talismans, and charms;

On one side folly sits, by some call'd fun,
And on the other, his arch patron Lun.
Behind, for Liberty a thirst in vain,
Sense, helpless captive, drags the galling chain.
Six rude mis-shapen beasts the chariot draw,
Whom reason loathes, and nature never saw;
Monsters with tails of ice, and heads of fire!
Gorgons, and hydras, and chimeras dire.
Each was bestrode by full as monstrous weight,
Giant, dwarf, Genius, Elf, Hermaphrodite.
The town, as usual, met him in full cry:
The town, as usual, knew no reason why.
But fashion so directs, and moderns raise
On fashion's mould'ring base, their transient praise.'

Among the Pantomimes which the managers of the Boston Theatre have 'got up' this season, none has a more deserving claim to the admiration of the full grown children of the metropolis, than THE BRAZEN MASK. Excepting the Melo-Drame of THE PILGRIMS, we do not recollect to have ever witnessed a more splendid spectacle of nonsense and foolery. Those who have not seen this 'grand, heroick, serious Pantomime,' may perhaps thank us for some information respecting it. Be it known then, that the plot of the piece is not communicated to the spectator in the customary manner by action, look and gesture; but by a more 'miraculous organ' than any of those usually denominated 'organs of sense.' The various passions, ideas, &c. of the *dramatis personæ*, are conveyed to the spectators by means of a huge label, dangling from a pole, and brought on by some lubberly supernumerary. On those labels are painted, in large capitals, whatever the actors mean to express, or the incident which is then taking place. There are indeed two or three instances in which this ingenious method of conveying information is dispensed with; and in all these cases, the actions and looks of the performers, though very comical and pathetick, are utterly inexplicable. It would certainly be an improvement to have all, which the personages are supposed to say, painted on the brazen masks worn by the greatest part of them. Perhaps it would be some objection to this method, that their speeches would all appear to the spectators at one view; but this might be obviated by the actor's pointing to one or the other as circumstances required. 'Correct books of the plot, incidents,' &c. are sold at the box-office; but notwithstanding all this, the reason why the Baron should desert his castle and domains, and become the leader of a banditti, still remains an inscrutable mystery.

THE GERMAN THEATRE.

IN our next Number we shall commence the publication of the celebrated German play from the Anti-Jacobin, which we shall occasionally accompany by Notes illustrative of the original dramas, which it is intended to ridicule. "THE ROVERS, or DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT," is said to be the production of Lord Grenville, and admirably exposes the system of German composition, and even of the Melo-Drame, a species of writing infinitely more ridiculous. The following is the

PLOT.

ROGERO, Son of the late Minister of the COUNT of SAXE WEIMAR, having, while he was at College, fallen desperately in love with MATILDA POTTINGEN, Daughter of his Tutor, Doctor ENGELBURTUS POTTINGEN, Professor of Civil Law, and MATILDA evidently returning his passion, the Doctor, to prevent ill consequences sends his Daughter on a visit to her Aunt, in *Wetteravia*, where she becomes acquainted with CASIMER, a Polish Officer, who happens to be quartered near her Aunt's; and has several Children by him.

RODERIC, COUNT of SAXE WEIMAR, a Prince of tyrannical and licentious disposition, has for his Prime Minister and favourite, GASPAR, a crafty villain, who had risen to his Post by first ruining, and then putting to death ROGERO's father—GASPAR, apprehensive of the power and popularity which the young ROGERO may enjoy at his return to Court, seizes the occasion of his intrigue with MATILDA (of which he is apprized officially by Doctor POTTINGEN) to procure from his Master an order for the recall of ROGERO from College, and for committing him to the care of the PRIOR of the *Abbey* of *Quodlinburgh*, a Priest, rapacious, savage, and sensual, and devoted to GASPAR's interests—sending at the same time private orders to the Prior to confine him in a Dungeon.

Here ROGERO languishes many years. His daily sustenance is administered to him through a grated opening at the top of a Cavern, by the *Landlady* of the *Golden Eagle* at WEIMAR, with whom GASPAR contracts, in the Prince's name, for his support; intending, and more than once endeavouring, to corrupt the Waiter to mingle poison with the food, in order that he may get rid of ROGERO for ever.

In the mean time CASIMER, having been called away from the neighborhood of MATILDA's residence to other quarters, becomes enamoured of, and marries CECILIA, by whom he has a family, and whom he likewise deserts after a few years co-habitation, on pretence of business which calls him to *Kamschatka*.

Doctor POTTINGEN, now grown old and infirm, and feeling the want of his Daughter's society, sends young POTTINGEN in search of her, with strict injunctions not to return without her; and to bring with her either her present lover CASIMERE, or, should that not be possible, ROGERO himself, if he can find him; the Doctor having set his heart upon seeing his Children comfortably settled before his death. MATILDA, about the same period,

quits her Aunt's in search of CASIMERE; and CECILIA having been advertised (by an anonymous letter), of the falsehood of his *Kamschatka* journey, sets out in a post-waggon on a similar pursuit.

It is at this point of time that the Play opens—with the accidental meeting of CECILIA and MATILDA at the Inn at WEIMAR. CASIMERE arrives there soon after, and falls in first with MATILDA, and then with CECILIA. Successive *eclaircissements* take place, and an arrangement is finally made, by which the two Ladies are to live jointly with CASIMERE.

Young POTTINGEN, wearied with a few weeks search, during which he has not been able to find either of the objects of it, resolves to stop at WEIMAR, and wait events there. It so happens that he takes up his lodgings in the same house with PUDDINGRANTZ and BERFINSTERN, two English Noblemen, whom the tyranny of KING JOHN has obliged to fly from their Country; and who, after wandering about the Continent for some time, have fixed their residence at WEIMAR.

The News of the Signature of MAGNA CHARTA arriving, determines PUDDINGRANTZ and BERFINSTERN to return to *England*. Young POTTINGEN opens his case to them, and entreats them to stay to assist him in the object of his search.—This they refuse; but coming to the Inn where they are to set off for *Hamburgh*, they meet CASIMERE, from whom they had both received many civilities in *Poland*.

CASIMERE, by this time, tired of his "DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT," and having learnt from the Waiter, that ROGERO is confined in the Vaults of the neighbouring Abbey *for love*, resolves to attempt his rescue, and to make over MATILDA to him as the price of his deliverance. He communicates his scheme to PUDDINGFIELD and BERFINGTON, who agree to assist him; as also does Young POTTINGEN. The WAITER of the Inn proving to be a *Knight Templar* in disguise, is appointed Leader of the Expedition. A Band of TROUBADOURS, who happen to be returning from the CRUSADES, and a Company of Austrian and Prussian Grenadiers returning from the SEVEN YEARS WAR, are engaged as Troops.

The attack on the Abbey is made with great success. The Count of WEIMAR and GASPAR, who are feasting with the PRIOR, are seized and beheaded in the Refectory. The PRIOR is thrown into the Dungeon, from which ROGERO is rescued. MATILDA and CECILIA rush in, the former recognizes ROGERO and agrees to live with him. The Children are produced on all sides—and Young POTTINGEN is commissioned to write to his Father, the DOCTOR, to detail the joyful events which have taken place, and to invite him to WEIMAR to partake of the general felicity.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 19.] SATURDAY, MAY 13, 1809. [Vol. I.

THE STAGE.

'A Play, which if it has a proper run, will do much to unhinge the present notions of men with regard to the obligations of civil society, and to substitute in lieu of a sober contentment and regular discharge of the duties incident to each man's particular situation, a wild desire of undefinable latitude and extravagance: and aspiration after shapeless somethings that can neither be described nor understood; a contemptuous disgust at all that *is*, and a persuasion that nothing is as it ought to be; to operate in short a general discharge of every man (in his own estimation) from every thing that laws divine or human, that local customs, immemorial habits, and multiplied examples impose upon him; and to set them about doing what they like, where they like, and how they like, without any reference to any law, but their own will, or to any consideration of, how others may be affected by their conduct.'

THE ROVERS;

OR,

THE DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT.

DRAMATIS PERSONÆ.

PRIOR *of the* ABBEY *of* QUEDLINBURGH—*very corpulent and cruel.*

ROGERO—*a Prisoner in the Abbey, in love with* MATILDA POTTINGEN.

CASIMERE—*a Polish Emigrant, in Dombrowsky's Legion—married to* CECILIA, *but having several Children by* MATILDA.

PUDDINGFIELD *and* BERRINGTON—*English Noblemen exiled by the Tyranny of* KING JOHN, *previous to the signature of Magna Charta.*

RODERIC, *Count of* SAXE WEIMAR—*a bloody Tyrant, with red hair and amorous complexion.*

GASPAR—*the Minister of the Count; Author of* ROGERO'S *Confinement.*

Young POTTINGEN—*Brother to* MATILDA.

MATILDA POTTINGEN—*in love with* ROGERO, *and Mother to* CASIMERE'S *Children.*

CECILIA MÜCKINFELDT—*Wife to* CASIMERE.

LANDLADY, WAITER, GRENADIERS, TROUBADOURS, *&c. &c.*

PANTALOWSKY *and* BRITCHINDA—*Children of* MATILDA *by* CASIMERE.

JOACHIM, JABEL, *and* AMARANTHA—*Children of* MATILDA *by* ROGERO.

Children of CASIMERE *and* CECILIA, *with their respective Nurses.*

Several Children; Fathers and Mothers unknown.

The Scene lies in the Town of WEIMAR, *and the Neighbourhood of the Abbey of* QUEDLINBURGH.

Time, from the 12th to the present Century.

ACT I.—SCENE I.

SCENE *represents a Room at an Inn, at* WEIMAR—*On one side of the Stage the Bar-room, with Jellies, Lemons in Nets, Syllabubs and part of a cold roast Fowl, &c.—On the opposite side, a Window looking into the Street, through which Persons (Inhabitants of* WEIMAR) *are seen passing to and fro in apparent agitation—*MATILDA *appears in a Great Coat and Riding Habit, seated at the corner of the Dinner Table, which is covered with a clean Huckaback Cloth—Plates and Napkins, with Buck's-Horn-handled Knives and Forks, are laid as if for four Persons.**

MATILDA—Is it impossible that I can have dinner sooner?

LANDLADY—Madam, the *Brunswick* Post-Waggon is not yet come in, and the Ordinary is never before two o'clock.

MATILDA—(*With a look expressive of disappointment, but immediately recomposing herself).* Well, then, I must have patience—(*Exit* LANDLADY.) Oh CASIMERE!—How often have the thoughts of thee served to amuse these moments of expectation! What a difference, alas!—Dinner—it is taken away as soon as over, and we regret it not!—It returns again with the return of appetite.—The Beef of to-morrow will succeed to the Mutton of to-day, as the Mutton of to-day succeeded to the Veal of yesterday.—But when once the heart has been occupied by a beloved object, in vain would we attempt to supply the chasm by

* The ridiculous minuteness of stage description, begun by Schiller and Kotzebue, and adopted on the English theatre, by Mr. Monk Lewis, as he is called, and other Anglo-German dramatists, is very happily ridiculed in this account. In addition to the natural absurdity of this particularity, the German writers often desire that things should be indicated by the actor which are impossible to be expressed. Thus in Cabal and Love, by Schiller, we observe this kind of nonsense to be universally spread throughout every page; for example, 'Lady Milford, she just sets down to a harpsichord on one side of the room (on the other is a sofa) to play; *but finding herself too much unsettled* (without any indication by words) she rises. Sophy just coming from a window *which looks to a plain where there has been a review of the Prince's guards.*' Now all this is to be found out by the company, which though in itself impossible, would be of no consequence, even if it were taken for granted. Another instance is taken from a scene in which a gentleman is about to be carried to prison by a constable. '*Miller*—(Putting on *his hat* and taking down his *cane* that *hangs upon a nail* in the *corner of the room*).' All this must be confessed to be illustrative of very common circumstances of domestick economy, but we think it might very well be left to the actor; if however it was necessary to say that he took *his hat and cane* to go to prison with, we cannot perceive any reason why he should be told to put *his hat on*, that is natural enough, or why *the cane* should be so minutely *mentioned*, as to be described hanging *on a nail* in the *corner of the room*.

another. How easily are our desires transferred from Dish to Dish!—Love only, dear, delusive, delightful Love, restrains our wandering appetites, and confines them to a particular gratification! . . . . . .*

Post-horn blows, Re-enter LANDLADY.

LANDLADY—Madam, the Post-waggon is just come in with only a single Gentlewoman.

MATILDA—Then shew her up—and let us have Dinner instantly (LANDLADY *going);* and remember—*(after a moment's recollection, and with great earnestness)*—remember the Toasted Cheese.† (*Exit* LAND.)

CECILIA *enters, in a brown cloth riding-dress, as if just alighted from the Post-waggon.*

MATILDA—Madam, you seem to have had an unpleasant journey, if I may judge from the dust on your riding-habit.

CECILIA—The way was dusty, Madam, but the weather was delightful.‡ . It recalled to me those blissful moments when the rays of desire first vibrated through my Soul.

MATILDA—*(Aside)*—Thank Heaven; I have at last found a heart which is in unison with my own—(*to* CECILIA)—Yes, I understand you—the first pulsation of sentiment—the silver tones upon the yet unsounded Harp. . . . . .

* One of the peculiarities of the German writers is to cause their characters to talk sentiment upon the most trifling occurrences of life, which only renders that ludicrous, which if it were introduced in a more dignfied manner, might be admitted without reluctance. This is rendered very evident on a careful perusal of any German play, The Stranger, Lover's Vows, Fiesco, The Robbers, &c. &c. But the worst of it is, that the sentiment thus pronounced, generally has a bad tendency. In 'Cabal and Love,' after her father had reproached Louisa for placing her affections upon a man much above her 'birth and scale;' he suggests that she shall never marry him. She proceeds thus, 'My dear father, talk not of reason, 'tis the foil of love,' but 'suppose that all my hopes shall be frustrated, *I had rather fix my whole soul in secret upon him alone,* than consent to an alliance with any other upon the earth; for let what will happen *(pointedly), we shall still meet,*' &c.

† It is remarkable on the German stage, that those things which are entirely indifferent to our happines in life, things which happen of course to every man, and which can neither promote, retard, nor add interest to a fable, are introduced with infinite display of affected sensibility by their dramatists. Thus it is natural to man to blow the nose, but no writer but a German would ever think it necessary to describe it at all, much less with pathos and apparent emotion. This tendency we think, well ridiculed at the passage which we have now noted.

‡ The same peculiarity is ridiculed here which we noticed in our second note.

CECILIA—The dawn of life—when this blossom—*(putting her hand upon her heart)*, first expanded its petals to the penetrating dart of Love!

MATILDA—Yes—the time—the golden time, when the first beams of the morning meet and embrace one another!—The blooming blue, upon the yet unplucked plum!— . . . .

CECILIA—Your countenance grows animated, my dear Madam.

MATILDA—And your's too is glowing with illumination.

CECILIA—I had long been looking out for a congenial Spirit! —my heart was withered—but the beams of your's have re-kindled it.

MATILDA—A sudden thought strikes me—Let us swear an eternal friendship.*

CECILIA—Let us agree to live together!

MATILDA—Willingly.—*(With rapidity and earnestness.)*

CECILIA—Let us embrace.—*(They embrace.)*

MATILDA—Yes; I too have lov'd!—You, too, like me, have been forsaken!—*(Doubtingly, and as if with a desire to be informed.)*

CECILIA—Too true!

BOTH—Ah these Men! These Men!

LANDLADY *enters, and places a Leg of Mutton on the Table, with Sour Krout and Prune Sauce—then a small Dish of Black Puddings.*—CECILIA *and* MATILDA *appear to take no notice of her.*

MATILDA—Oh CASIMERE!

CECILIA—*(Aside)*—CASIMÈRE! That name!—Oh my heart, how it is distracted with anxiety!

MATILDA—Heavens! Madam, you turn pale.

CECILIA—Nothing—a slight megrim—with your leave, I will retire—

MATILDA—I will attend you.—*(Exeunt* MATILDA *and* CECILIA. *Manent* LANDLADY *and* WAITER, *with the Dinner on the Table.)*

* The sympathy, which some writers bestow on the characters they describe, is truly astonishing. It is not peculiar to Kotzebue and Schiller, but to modern English novelists, and various other authors. There is a German play which we recollect to have seen, but to which we have not been able to have recourse very lately, in which a scene very similar to this, between Matilda and Cecilia, occurs, with the same expressions, in many instances.—We think it is Stella, where a gentleman lives very happily with two ladies, as the author of the Rovers remarks, very much resembling 'the *Thames* between his two Banks, in the Critick.'

LANDLADY—Have you carried the Dinner to the prisoner in the Vaults of the Abbey?

WAITER—Yes—Pease Soup, as usual, with the scrag end of a Neck of Mutton—The Emissary of the Count was here again this morning, and offered me a large some of money, if I would consent to poison him.

LANDLADY—Which you refused? *(with hesitation and anxiety.)*

WAITER—Can you doubt it? *(with indignation.)**

LANDLADY—*(recovering herself and drawing up with an expression of dignity.)*—The conscience of a poor man is as valuable to him as that of a Prince . . . .

WAITER—It ought to be still more so, in proportion as it is generally more pure.

LANDLADY—Thou says't truly, JOB.

WAITER—*(with enthusiasm)*—He who can spurn at wealth when proffered as the price of crime, is greater than a Prince.

Post-horn blows—Enter CASIMERE *(in a travelling dress—a light blue great coat with large metal buttons—his hair in a long queue, but twisted at the end; a large* KEVENHULLER *hat; a cane in his hand.)*

CASIMERE—Here, WAITER, pull off my boots, and bring me a pair of slippers. *(Exit* WAITER*)*. And heark'ye, my Lad, a bason of water *(rubbing his hands)* and a bit of soap†—I have not washed since I began my journey.

* The confinement of some great personage in a dungeon, on whose existence the hinges of the plot are made to turn, seems a necessary concomitant to a German drama; some inferiour agent, a low-bred servant or peasant, is constituted his keeper, who however is made to have sentiments much more exalted and capacious than the tyrant who employs him. Thus Herman, in the Robbers, Kenrick, in the Castle Spectre, have so much humanity left that they make known the concealment of the Count de Moor, and Reginald, after having kept the secret for many years; and this from the impulses of their latent humanity. The sentiments of the landlady and waiter in the Rovers are a fair example of this mock dignity and heroick virtue. Let it not be understood that the intention of the author is to ridicule virtue in low bred persons generally; it is only applied to the authors, for personifying this kind of exalted sympathy, in characters who have no other than a poetical existence; and who in real life could not be expected to feel its power. The errour is in deducing a general principle from a particular instance.

† A ludicrous example of an introduction of circumstances which have no agency in promoting the progress of a fable, and which when mixed with serious contemplations, destroys their effect; and renders the whole ridiculous. Throughout the whole of this scene, these instances frequently occur. So in Cabal and Love, Ferdinand, after a rhapsody about the 'seraphick sweetness' of Louisa asks her the great question on which his happiness or misery depends—'Didst thou write that letter?'

WAITER—*(answering from behind the door)*—Yes, Sir.

CASIMERE—Well, Landlady, what company are we to have?

LANDLADY—Only two Gentlewomen, Sir,—They are just stept into the next room—they will be back again in a minute.

CASIMERE—Where do they come from?

(All this while the Waiter re-enters with the bason and water. CASIMERE *pulls off his boots, takes a napkin from the table, and washes his face and hands.)*

LANDLADY—There is one of them I think comes from *Nuremburgh.*

CASIMERE—*(aside)*.—From *Nuremburgh*—*(with eagerness)*—Her name?

LANDLADY—MATILDA.

CASIMERE—*(aside)*.—How does this idiot woman torment me!—What else?

LANDLADY—I can't recollect.

CASIMERE—Oh agony! *(In a paroxysm of agitation.)*

WAITER—See here—her name upon the travelling trunk—MATILDA POTTINGEN.

CASIMERE—Ecstacy! Ecstacy! *(embracing the* WAITER.*)*

LANDLADY—You seem to be acquainted with the Lady—shall I call her?

CASIMERE—Instantly—Instantly—Tell her—her lov'd, her long lost—Tell her—

LANDLADY—Shall I tell her Dinner is ready?

CASIMERE—Do so— in the mean while, I will look after my portmanteau. *(Exeunt severally.)*

SCENE *changes to a Subterraneous Vault in the Abbey of* QUEDLINBURGH; *with Coffins, 'Scutcheons, Death's Heads and Cross-bones.—Toads, and other loathsome reptiles are seen traversing the obscurer parts of the Stage.*—ROGERO *appears, in chains, in a Suit of rusty Armour, with his beard grown, and a Cap of a grotesque form upon his head. Beside him a Crock, or Pitcher, supposed to contain his daily allowance of sustenance.* ' *A long silence, during which the*

Louisa—Then by the God of all—I did.

Ferdinand—Merciful Heavens!—*(Thunder struck and falling against the scenes.)* In the next sentence he says, ' My head burns—Louisa! will you make me a glass of Lemonade?' Now, though this request ultimately is made to apply to the plot, yet so ludicrous is the request, that it cannot be read without a smile. Nothing can therefore be more improperly introduced.

wind is heard to whistle through the Caverns.—ROGERO *rises, and comes slowly forward, with his arms folded.*

Eleven years!* It is now eleven years since I was first immured in this living Sepulchre—The cruelty of a Minister—The perfidy of a Monk—Yes, MATILDA! for thy sake—alive amidst the dead—chained—coffined—confined—cut off from the converse of my fellow men. Soft!—what have we here? (*stumbles over a bundle of sticks.*) This Cavern is so dark, that I can scarcely distinguish the objects under my feet. Oh!—the register of my Captivity—Let me see, how stands the account? (*Takes up the sticks, and turns them over with a melancholy air; then stands silent for a few moments, as if absorbed in calculation*)—Eleven years and fifteen days!—Hah—the twenty-eighth of August!—How does the recollection of it vibrate on my heart! It was on this day that I took my last leave of my MATILDA.—It was a summer evening—her melting hand seemed to dissolve in mine, as I pressed it to my bosom—Some Demon whispered me that I should never see her more.—I stood gazing on the hated vehicle which was conveying her away forever—The tears were petrified under my eye-lids.—My heart was crystallized with agony.—Anon—I looked along the road.—The Diligence seemed to diminish every instant.—I felt my heart beat against its prison, as if anxious to leap out and overtake it.—My soul whirled round, as I watched the rotation of the hinder wheels.—A long trail of glory followed after her, and mingled with the dust—it was the Emanation of Divinity, luminous with Love and Beauty—like the splendour of the setting Sun—but it told me that the sun of my joys was sunk forever—Yes, here in the

* Our readers will readily recollect the various dungeon scenes which comprise so considerable a part of the merits of the German plays; the chains, the bundle of sticks, the 28th of August, the fatal day, the retrospective glance at previous prosperity, and the pathos of present desperation, are circumstances which very naturally arise, and of which almost every victim of tyrannical vengeance makes indiscriminate use. The song of Rogero is a fancy of the poet's, as is the full accompaniment of the violins from the orchestra. So in the Melo-Drama, the characters are obliged to wait for the musick to strike a chord in unison with the sensation to be produced, before the passion can be exhibited. And the actor is frequently obliged to give a signal to the leader of the band, by a wink, a motion, a stamp of the foot, that he may begin; as, 'now, sir, I am to be mad, let your instruments express *distraction*; now disappointed, let your violin indicate *disappointment*; now I wish to wash my hands, let your musick be expressive of *soap and water*,' &c.

depths of an eternal Dungeon—In the Nursing Cradle of Hell—The Suburbs of Perdition—In a nest of Demons, where Despair in vain sits brooding over the putrid eggs of hope; where Agony woos the embrace of Death; where Patience, beside the bottomless pool of Despondency, sits angling for Impossibilities—Yet even *here*, to behold her, to embrace her—Yes, MATILDA, whether in this dark abode, amidst toads and spiders, or in a Royal Palace, amidst the more loathsome Reptiles of a Court, would be indifferent to me—Angels would shower down their hymns of gratulation upon our heads—while Fiends would envy the eternity of suffering Love. . . —. . . Soft, what air was that? it seemed a sound of more than human warbling—Again (*listens attentively for some minutes*)—Only the wind—It is well, however—It reminds me of that melancholy Air, which has so often solaced the hours of my Captivity—Let me see whether the damps of this dungeon have not yet injured my Guitar—(*Takes his Guitar, tunes it, and begins the following Air, with a full accompaniment of Violins from the Orchestra.*)

(AIR—*Lanterna Magica.*)

SONG—BY ROGERO.

Whene'er with haggard eyes I view
This Dungeon, that I'm rotting in,
I think of those Companions true
Who studied with me at the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*,—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*. (*Weeps, and pulls out a blue kerchief, with which he wipes his eyes; gazing tenderly at it, he proceeds*—

Sweet kerchief, check'd with heav'nly blue,
Which once my love sat knotting in?—
Alas! MATILDA *then* was true!—
At least I thought so at the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*. (*At the repetition of this Line* ROGERO *clanks his Chains in cadence.*)

Barbs! Barbs! alas! how swift you flew
Her neat Post-Waggon trotting in!

Ye bore MATILDA from my view;
Forlorn I languish'd at the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*.

This faded form! this pallid hue!
This blood my veins is clotting in,
My years are many—They were few
When first I enter'd at the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*.

There first for thee my passion grew,
Sweet! sweet MATILDA POTTINGEN!
Thou wast the daughter of my Tu-
—TOR, *Law Professor* at the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen*.

Sun, Moon, and thou vain world, adieu,
That Kings and Priests are plotting in:
Here doom'd to starve on water-gru—
—el* never shall I see the U—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen!*—
—NIVERSITY of *Gottingen!*

(*During the last Stanza* ROGERO *dashes his head repeatedly against the walls of his Prison; and finally, so hard as to produce a visible contusion. He then throws himself on the floor in an agony. The Curtain drops—The musick still continuing to play, till it is wholly fallen.*)

END OF ACT I.

POETRY.

THE following Verses, supposed to have been written by one of the authors of 'Salmagandi,' are copied from Godwin's Album, at Passaick Falls. The writers of Salmagundi certainly have much genius

* A manifest error—since it appears from the Waiter's conversation (P 293), that Rogero was not doomed to starve on water-gruel, but on pease-soup; which is a much better thing. Poffibly the length of Rogero's imprisonment had impaired his memory; or he might wish to make things appear worse than they really were; which is very natural, I think, in such a case as this poor unfortunate Gentleman's. PRINTER'S DEVIL.

and original wit. In the Monthly Mirror, however, (an English publication of extensive sale, arising only from its ample information in the theatrical department, the beauty of its engravings, and the neatness of its typographical execution: but viewed in any other light, a mere collection of vapid thought and ignorant observation) their miserable reviewers undertake to censure it very severely. Though Salmagundi evidently has faults, yet they certainly are not such as these reviewers seem to apprehend: and indeed, the judges at the tribunal of the Monthly Mirror, in presuming to pronounce sentence upon the literary crimes committed on this side of the Atlantick, act upon self-assumed authority, and in reality are deciding questions, over which they have no jurisdiction. 'As well,' says Pope, 'may you try a man in one country for offending the laws of another.' The truth is, the reviewers in the Monthly Mirror cannot justly estimate the merits of a composition, the wit and humour of which depend upon an acquaintance with circumstances far removed out of the circumference of their knowledge; a composition, which really possesses more genuine though playful excellence, than an extraction of all the merit from all the original communications to the Monthly Mirror could produce, if taken from the beginning of the establishment.

IN a wild tranquil vale, fring'd with forests of green,
Where nature had fashion'd a soft sylvan scene;
The retreat of the ring-dove, the haunt of the deer,
Passaick in silence, roll'd gentle and clear.

No grandeur of prospect astonish'd the sight,
No abruptness sublime mingled awe with delight;
Here the wild flow'ret blossom'd, the elm proudly wav'd,
And pure was the current the green banks that lav'd.

But the spirit that rul'd o'er the thick tangled wood,
And deep in its gloom fix'd his murky abode,
Who lov'd the rude scene that the whirlwinds deform,
And gloried in thunder and lightning and storm;

All flush'd from the tumult of battle he came,
Where the red men encounter'd the children of flame;
While the noise of the war-whoop still rung in his ears,
And the fresh bleeding scalp as a trophy he bears.

Oh! deep was the horror, and fierce was the fight,
When the eyes of the red men were shrouded in night;
When by strangers invaded, by strangers destroy'd,
They ensanguin'd the fields which their fathers enjoy'd.

Lo! the sons of the forest in terror retire,
Pale savages chase them with thunder and fire;
In vain whirls the war club, in vain twangs the bow,
With thunder and fire are his warriors laid low.

From defeat and from carnage, the fierce spirit came,
His breast was a tumult his passions were flame;
Despair swells his heart, fury maddens his ire,
And black scowls his brow o'er his eye balls of fire.

With a glance of disgust he the landscape survey'd,
With its fragrant wild flowers, its wide waving shade,
Where Passaick meanders through margins of green,
So transparent its waters, its surface serene.

He riv'd the green hills, the wild woods he laid low,
He taught the pure stream in rough channels to flow;
He rent the rude rock, the steep precipice gave,
And hurl'd down the chasm the thundering wave.

A scene of strange ruin, he scatter'd around,
Where cliffs pil'd on cliffs in rude majesty frown'd;
Where shades of thick horror embrown'd the dark wood,
And the rainbow and mist mark'd the turbulent flood.

Countless moons have since roll'd in the long lapse of time,
Cultivation has soften'd those features sublime;
The axe of the white man, has lighted the shade,
And dispell'd the deep gloom of the thicketed glade.

Yet the stranger still gazes with wondering eye,
On the rocks rudely torn, and groves mounted on high;
Still loves on the cliffs' dizzy borders to roam,
Where the torrent leaps headlong embosom'd in foam.

TOBINUS.

EPIGRAM.

IN the reign of Democracy, dead to all shame,
The demons of falsehood infest us;
Vice and Folly assume Wit and Virtue's fair name,
And the devil himself's call'd *Honestus*. Q.

POLITICAL.

POLITICAL FALSEHOODS.

'The late compliance of England with the *precise* terms offered by our government last August, has very much confused, if not altogether confounded, the arguments of the 'British party in America.' *Patriot, May* 10.

What was offered by our government last August? By the letter of Mr. Pinckney to Mr. Canning, we can discover the answer to this question, and the *veracity* of the writer of the above quoted paragraph, will then be rendered evident. Perhaps he will esteem it one of his 'minor errours.' Be it so; we acknowledge, when compared to the errours of importance which he has made, it is of inferiour consequence indeed; yet it places the two governments of Great-Britain and America, in a light very adverse to the exhibition of the picture which the democrats hold up to our view. Deriving his authority from Mr. Madison more than once expressed, Mr. Pinckney on the 23d of August, made this offer to Mr. Canning, 'to suspend the embargo and its supplements as regarded Great-Britain, in case that nation repealed her orders in Council as respected America.'

This is the simple condition which we offered, unrestricted by any other contingencies. The discussions on the attack upon the Chesapeak were to have been waved, until after the restoration of our commercial intercourse. Great-Britain then refused the offer. But she has now the merit of conducting with great sincerity. Knowing as Mr. Canning did, that the American people were thought-sick of the policy which their government had pursued, he was well aware that they would *at any time* accept a revocation of the orders, upon the simple and unqualified condition which was proposed last year; that indeed this government would seize with avidity the first favourable opportunity to restore the commerce of the country to that vigour of which they had deprived it, to that health which they had nearly destroyed. To comply then with 'the precise terms' which Mr. Pinckney offered last year, it would only have been required of Mr. Canning to tell the American minister that since the '*non-intercourse*' law had placed France and Great-Britain upon terms of equality, in the eye of the world, (which was not the case last August) the British government were now ready to accede to the propositions then made for an accommodation. Is there any doubt that Mr. Pinckney was *authorized* to accept such terms? We venture to assert that the tenour of our official correspondence will warrant us in coming to the conclusion, that he was thus authorized. And the terms of the non-intercourse law itself confirms us in the hypothesis. This authority therefore, being taken for granted, it was manifest that all which Great-Britain had conceded, beyond the limits which that authority implies, is in so far gra-

tuitous and unextorted, is so much to be placed to the account of her candour; and is certainly so far *deviating* from the precise terms proposed by the American government. Now let us see what she has thus had the merits of offering without the least necessity on her part, if our proposals be considered as the line of that necessity.

First, *The sending a special messenger to this country to make an offer of a proper reparation for the Chesapeak aggression*, when she might as easily have made it in England, or (as far as was connected with a restoration of commerce) not have made it at all.

Second. An unexpected offer to send to this country a minister extraordinary to settle a treaty, upon terms mutually satisfactory.

These are proposals greatly beyond our own conditions and expectations; yet we are unblushingly told that the *precise terms* which our government offered last year, are the conditions on which our differences are accommodated; and what is yet more ridiculous, we are informed that the rickety bantling, the embargo, has made a lion crouch, because a few straggling hairs from his mane have been pulled.

'It is probable that the good sense of the English nation would have led them to commission Mr. Rose to negociate upon more favourable terms, had not the communications from the Essex Faction deceived them. The rebellion early excited in Boston against the embargo—the factious votes and resolutions of town meetings—the encouragement given to a violation of the laws—the report and proceedings of the Legislature—the toasts of false patriots and hypocritical priests, at their bacchanalian carousals—all these circumstances urged the ministry to direct Mr. Rose in the tone of his mission.' *Chronicle, May 8.*

This delectable passage is taken from the writings of a political scribler, who styles himself 'The Examiner,' whose palpable ignorance on all subjects of political economy and expedience is only exceeded by the gross perversions of truth, with which his statements are lavishly overspread. The quotation, which we have just made, is a lamentable example of this dangerous propensity to misrepresent the real state of things; to obscure the light of truth, by the shades of falsehood and low cunning. In these few lines take five absolute unblushing falsehoods for granted, in order to arrive at a conclusion which is known by the writer to be equally destitute of truth. Let us take his scurrilous expressions without comment and consider the truth of the facts which they imply. He says the British ministry were urged by the following circumstances, to direct Mr. Rose in the tone of his mission: First. 'The rebellion excited in Boston against the embargo.' Mr. Rose left England before the embargo was known there; and even left Ameri-

ca before news of any proceedings in Boston could have reached Europe. Second. 'The factious votes and resolutions of town meetings.' There was no town meeting on the question of the embargo, until Mr. Rose had closed his mission. Third. 'The encouragement given to the violation of the laws.' From the premises it is morally impossible, that if this infamous assertion were at any time true, it could have come within the knowledge of the English government, that any evasion or encouragement of evasion of the laws could have taken place before the laws themselves were known. Fourth. 'The report and proceedings of the Legislature.' They had hardly arrived in England even by the last accounts. Fifth. 'The toasts and proceedings of false patriots and hypocritical priests, at their bacchanalian carousals.' We really are disgusted with the audacious profligacy, with which this poison is presented to the publick, and have to apologize to our readers for detaining them so long upon—

'These petty arts, dissemblings, falsehoods, frauds,
'The trash of villainy itself:'

A series of glaring falsehoods, which are self-evident to us upon the first perusal. Many honest men however, who do not compare dates, might be deceived with these assertions; and therefore the task of refuting them should be readily undertaken by those who wish to diffuse the light of truth over the minds of the people. We are much mistaken if we suppose that the circulation of wilful falsehood is limited in its influence, in proportion to its turpitude; on the contrary, it will be imbibed as readily as demonstration.

'Neutral property under the protection of a neutral flag, for more than a century previous to the French revolution, was by the publick law of civilized nations, free from the confiscation of belligerents in *all* cases, excepting goods contraband of war, and supplies going into an enemy's port invested by actual blockade.'

In the war of 1756, the following principle was understood between France and Holland, as the existing law of nations; it is the VIIth article of a '*Memoir Instructif*,' presented to the States General by the French minister for their government during the war, and runs thus: 'If the Dutch ships carry any *goods or merchandize of the growth or manufacture* of the enemies of France, they shall be deemed good prize, but the ship shall be discharged.'

Previous to this time, the belligerent 'powers had prohibited the commerce of neutral nations with their enemies totally.'* The French

* Pamphlet entitled '*The Conduct of Great-Britain, with respect to Great-Britain, during the present war*—1758.

regulation above stated, was not peculiar to France only, but 'other nations have established pretty nearly the same.'*

The controversy which arose between England and Holland in this war of 1756, resulted from some dispute as to the particular treaty then existing between the two nations, and the Dutch refused to admit the principle since called the 'rule of war of 1756,' for which the English contended on the ground that they had '*renounced their rights*,' which '*the French never did*.' But the validity of the principle itself, the Dutch never denied; on the contrary, by the treaty which then existed between Holland and France, the rule of war of 1756 was expressly recognized in these terms: 'Granting to the Dutch a liberty of trading with France, in time of war as they did in time of peace.'†

It appears therefore, that this first proposition, in a piece entitled *The Volunteer* in the Patriot newspaper, is not accurate in point of fact, any more than in point of style. There are ample grounds for defending the neutral rights respecting the colonial trade (which should not be renounced) against the assertions of belligerent powers, without resorting to falsehood or deception. The commercial laws of nations were not remarkably well defined, previous to 1756. There is very little doubt, that the neutral was placed in a very disadvantageous situation at that time; but there is also very little doubt that they were so placed very unjustly. The principle, for which the English contend, respecting the colonial trade, proves too much, and is, we think, from its very nature, easily overturned. We shall probably offer a few considerations on this subject of the neutral trade hereafter, before the new discussions on the treaty shall have commenced; and have only made the foregoing observations upon the topick, to show *how intrinsically corrupt* the party must be, which resorts to falsehood to maintain a point which even their political opponents are willing to admit to be correct.

MISREPRESENTATION.

'Mr. Stephens in his argument contends that the stagnation of British commerce was caused by the Berlin Decree, and not by the Orders in Council. In labouring this point, which appears to be the principal one on which Mr. S. differs from his antagonist, (Mr. Whitbread) he inadvertently introduces us to

"THE BRITISH PARTY IN AMERICA."

Patriot, May 10.

From the exultations of the democrats about the expression, "British party in America," made by Mr. Stephens, they seem to imagine

* Preamble to the 'Memoire Instructif:' See Gentleman's Magazine, for 1756-7-8, and Utrecht Gazette, July 8, 1756.

† *Defence of the Dutch West India trade, by a Merchant of Amsterdam.*

that there is really a set of men under the immediate pay and influence of the British ministers. If they are so ready to admit the truth of a single assertion of a gentleman, whose political doctrines have been *almost universally opposed by the Federalists*, we presume they mean to admit the truth of the re-echoed charge of *French influence* and the *French party* in America, which has been so repeatedly made both in France and England. The doctrines of this very Mr. Stephens have been opposed by Mr. Gore, Mr. Pickering, Mr. King, and generally by all those, whom the democrats affect to consider under British pay. They oppose many of his doctrines now. The expression 'British party,' of which he made use, means no more than a party in opposition to the democrats, or French party, whose writings and speeches have breathed nothing but hostility against Great-Britain.

It is strange how singularly some people mistake things merely indifferent. Party spirit will often occasion a man to see any truth in opposition, to him very indistinctly; but it might fairly be supposed, that when the film of political prejudice should be removed, he would recover his sight. Yet the author of the above quotation has mistaken the argument, when he observes that Mr. S. contends 'that the stagnation of British commerce was caused by the Berlin Decree and not by the Orders in Council.' We venture to assert, that Mr. Stephens does not labour a point like this in his whole speech; the drift of his argument is misrepresented by this writer, either from ignorance or some other cause; and if he will take pains to peruse the observations of Mr. Stephens a second time, he will probably discover the mistake he has committed.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

13 A general and correct View of the Prophecies, relative to the Conversion, Restoration, Union, and future Glory of the Houses of Judah and Israel; the Progress and final overthrow of the Anti-christian Confederacy in the land of Palestine; and the ultimate general diffusion of Christianity. By the Rev. George Stanley Faber, B. D. Vicar of Stockton, Upon-Tees. Boston, W. Andrews.

14 Eighteen Sermons, preached by the late George Whitfield, A. M. Newburyport, Thomas and Whipple.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 20.] SATURDAY, MAY 20, 1809. [Vol. 1.

THE STAGE.

THE ROVERS;

OR,

THE DOUBLE ARRANGEMENT.*

ACT II.

SCENE—*A Room in an ordinary Lodging-House at* WEIMAR—PUDDINGFIELD *and* BEEFINGTON,† *sitting at a small deal table, and playing at* ALL-FOURS. *Young* POTTINGEN, *at another table in the corner of the Room, with a Pipe in his mouth, and a Saxon Mug of a singular shape beside him, which he repeatedly applies to his lips, turning back his head, and casting his eyes towards the firmament—at the last trial he holds the Mug for some moments in a directly inverted position; then he replaces it on the table, with an air of dejection, and gradually sinks into a profound slumber.‡—The Pipe falls from his hand, and is broken.§*

BEEFINGTON—I beg.

PUDDINGFIELD—*(Deals three cards to* BEEFINGTON.*)*—Are you satisfied?

* The success of the imitation of the German Drama, which we presented in our last number, has by some persons been considered doubtful; they observe that no German play in existence can give fair scope for such severity of sarcasm. The conduct of Cecilia and Matilda has been conceived to be unnaturally forced into extravagance: we admit it; but it is not more ridiculous than other events in many German plays frequently are. But even were the objection valid, we reply in the words of the author, that the scene we allude to 'is taken *almost word for word* from 'STELLA,' a German piece' formerly in much repute.

† Puddingfield and Beefington, should be Puddingcrantz and Beefinstern, to resemble more accurately the German originals.

‡ This behaviour of Young Pottingen reminds us of a case in 'Self Immolation,' when the hero is described as acting strange pranks in a coffee house, just before he sacrifices himself, by plunging into the Thames.

§ The stage direction which is given in '*The Rovers, or Double Arrangement*,' has a decided superiority over that frequently contained in the German Dramas. The audience can be supposed to comprehend the nature of the actions exhibited in this case, if they are not able to discover any extraordi-

BEEF.—Enough. What have you?

PUDD.—High—low—and the Game.

BEEF.—Damnation! 'Tis my deal. *(Deals—Turns up a Knave.)*—One for his heels! *(Triumphantly.)*

PUDD.—Is King highest?

BEEF.—No. *(Sternly.)*—The Game is mine—The Knave gives it me.

PUDD.—Are Knaves so prosperous?

BEEF.—Aye marry are they in this world. They have the game in their hands. Your kings are but *noddies** to them.

PUDD.—Ha! Ha! Ha!—Still the same proud spirit, BEEFINGTON, which procured thee thine exile from *England.*

BEEF.—England! my native land! when shall I revisit thee? *(during this time* PUDDINGFIELD *deals, and begins to arrange his hand.)*

BEEFINGTON *(continues)*—Phoo—Hang ALL-FOURS; what are they to a mind ill at ease?—Can they cure the heart-ach? Can they soothe banishment? Can they lighten ignominy?—Can ALL-FOURS do this? O! my PUDDINGFIELD, thy limber and lightsome spirit bounds up against affliction—with the elasticity of a well bent bow; but mine—O! mine—*(falls into an agony, and sinks back in his chair. Young* POTTINGEN, *awakened by the noise, rises, and advances with a grave demeanour, towards* BEEF. *and* PUDD.—*The former begins to recover.)*

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nary meaning in them: but what spectator who is not inspired could be able to understand such stage exhibitions as the following directions imply? In 'The Stranger,' the hero being described as in great emotion ('*throws himself on a seat; takes from his pocket* 'Zimmerman on Solitude,' *and reads.*') Now, though the Stranger may take out *a book* very naturally *from his pocket*, the difficulty which a spectator would feel in discovering whether it was '*Zimmerman on Solitude,*' or not, must, we think, be manifest to every one. In the same play, we think the best actress would find it pretty difficult to portray the following emotions described as belonging to the character of Mrs. Haller. 'Mrs. Haller casts her eyes upon the ground, *and contends against the confusion of an exalted soul when surprised in a good action!* BARON stands opposite to her, and from time to time *casts a glance at her, in which his heart is swimming!*'

* This is an excellent joke in German; the point and spirit of which is but *ill-rendered* in a Translation. A NODDY, the Reader will observe, has two significations—the one a *Knave at All-fours*; the other a Fool, or BOOBY.—See the Translation of COUNT BENYOWSKY, or the CONSPIRACY of KAMSCHATKA, a German Tragi-Comi-Comi-Tragedy; where the Play opens with a Scene of a Game at Chess, (from which the whole of this Scene is copied) and a joke of the same point and merriment about PAWNS *(i. e.)* BOORS being *a match for* KINGS.

Y. Pot.—What is the matter, Comrades?*—you seem agitated. Have you lost or won?

Beef.—Lost.—I have lost my Country.

Y. Pot.—And I my sister.—I came hither in search of her.

Beef.—O, England!

Y. Pot.—O, Matilda!

Beef.—Exiled by the tyranny of an Usurper, I seek the means of revenge, and of restoration to my Country.

Y. Pot.—Oppressed by the tyranny of an Abbot, persecuted by the jealousy of a Count, the betrothed Husband of my Sister languishes in a loathsome captivity—Her lover is fled no one knows whither—and I, her Brother, am torn from my paternal roof and from my studies in Chirurgery; to seek him and her, I know not where—to rescue Rogero, I now not how.—Comrades, your counsel—my search fruitless—my money gone—my baggage stolen! What am I to do?—In yonder Abbey—in these dark, dank vaults, there, my friends—there lies Rogero—there Matilda's heart—

SCENE II.

Enter Waiter—Sir, here is a person who desires to speak with you.

Beef.—*(Goes to the door, and returns with a Letter, which he opens—On perusing it, his countenance becomes illuminated, and expands prodigiously)*—Hah, my Friend, what joy! *(Turning to* Puddingfield.)

Pudd.—What? tell me—Let you Puddingfield partake it.

Beef.—See here—*(produces a printed Paper.)*

Pudd.—What?—*(with impatience.)*

Beef.—(*In a significant tone)*—A Newspaper!†

Pudd.—Hay, what say'st thou!—A Newspaper!

Beef.—Yes, Puddingfield, and see here—*(shews it partially)*—from *England.*

Pudd.—*(With extreme earnestness)*—Its name?

Beef.—The *Daily Advertiser*—

Pudd.—Oh ecstacy!

* This word in the original is strictly *fellow-lodgers*—"*Co-occupants of the same room, in a house let out at a small rent by the week.*"—There is no single word in English which expresses so complicated a relation, except perhaps the cant term of *Chum*, formerly in use at our Universities.

† See the plays of Kotzebue and Schiller, almost universally.

BEEF.—*(With a dignified severity.)*—PUDDINGFIELD, calm yourself—repress those transports—remember that you are a man.

PUDD.—*(After a pause with suppressed emotion)*—Well, I will be—I am calm—Yet tell me, BEEFINGTON, does it contain any news?

BEEF.—Glorious news, my dear PUDDINGFIELD—the Barons are victorious—KING JOHN has been defeated—MAGNA CHARTA, that venerable immemorial inheritance of Britons, was signed last Friday was three weeks, the Third of July Old Style.

PUDD.—I can scarce believe my ears—but let me satisfy my eyes—Shew me the Paragraph.

BEEF.—Here it is, just above the Advertisements.

PUDD.—*(reads)*—"The great demand for *Packwood's* Razor Straps"—

BEEF.—'Pshaw! What, ever blundering—you drive me from my patience—See here, at the head of the Column.

PUDD.—*(reads)*

'A hireling Print, devoted to the Court,
'Has dared to question our Veracity
'Respecting the Events of yesterday;
'But by to-day's accounts, our information
'Appears to have been perfectly correct.—
'The Charter of our Liberties receiv'd
'The Royal Signature at five o'clock,
'When Messengers were instantly despatch'd
'To Cardinal PANDULFO; and their Majesties,
'After partaking of a cold collation,
'Return'd to Windsor.'—I am satisfied.

BEEF.—Yet here again—there are some further particulars—*(Turns to another part of the Paper)*—'Extract of a Letter from 'Egham—'My Dear Friend, we are all here in high spirits—'The interesting event which took place this morning at *Runny-'mede*, in the neighbourhood of this town'—

PUDD.—Hah! *Runnymede*—Enough—No more—my doubts are vanished, then are we free indeed!—

BEEF.—I have besides, a Letter in my pocket from your Friend the immortal BACON, who has been appointed Chancellor.—Our Outlawry is reversed!—What says my Friend—Shall we return by the next Packet?

PUDD.—Instantly, instantly!

BOTH.—Liberty!—ADELAIDE!—Revenge!

(Exeunt—Young POTTINGEN *following, and waving his hat, but obviously without much consciousness of the meaning of what has passed.)*

SCENE *changes to the outside of the Abbey. A Summer's Evening—Moonlight.*

Companies of AUSTRIAN *and* PRUSSIAN *Grenadiers march across the Stage, confusedly, as if returning from the Seven Years War. Shouts and Martial Musick.*

The Abbey Gates are opened.—The MONKS *are seen passing in procession, with the* PRIOR *at their head. The choir is heard chaunting Vespers. After which a pause.—Then a Bell is heard, as if ringing for Supper. Soon after a noise of singing and jollity.*

Enter from the Abbey, pushed out of the Gates by the Porter, a Troubadour, with a bundle under his cloak, and a Lady under his arm— TROUBADOUR *seems much in liquor, but caresses the* FEMALE MINSTREL.

FEM. MINST.—Trust me, GIERONYMO, thou seemest melancholy. What hast thou got under thy cloak?

TROUBADOUR.—'Pshaw, Women will be enquiring. Melancholy! Not I.—I will sing thee a Song, and the subject of it shall be thy question—'What have I got under my cloak?' It is a Riddle, MARGARET—I learnt it of an Almanack-maker at GOTHA—If thou guessest it after the first Stanza, thou shalt have never a drop for thy pains. Hear me—and, d'ye mark! twirl thy thingumbob while I sing.

FEM. MIN.—'Tis a pretty tune, and hums dolefully.—*(Plays on her Balalaika.*)* (TROUBADOUR *sings.)*

I bear a secret comfort *here,*
(Putting his hand on the bundle, but without shewing it.)
A joy I'll ne'er impart;
It is not wine, it is not beer,
But it consoles my heart.

FEM. MINST.—*(Interrupting him).*—I'll be hang'd if you don't mean the bottle of cherry-brandy that you stole out of the vaults in the Abbey cellar.

* The BALALAIKA is a Russian Instrument, resembling the Guitar.—See the Play of "COUNT BENYOWSKY," *rendered into* English.

TROUBADOUR.—I mean! Peace, wench, thou disturbest the current of my feelings—

(FEM. MINST. *attempts to lay hold on the bottle.* TROUBADOUR *pushes her aside and continues singing, without interruption.)*

This cherry-bounce, this lov'd noyeau,
My drink for ever be;
But, sweet, my Love, thy wish forego
I'll give no drop to Thee!

(Both together.)

TROUBADOUR. } This
FEM. MINST. } That } cherry-bounce { this / that } loved noyeau.

TROUBADOUR. } My
FEM. MINST. } Thy } drink for ever be;

TROUBADOUR. }
FEM. MINST. } But, sweet my love { thy wish forego! / one drop bestow.

TROUBADOUR. } I'll
FEM. MINST. } Nor } keep it all for { Me! / Thee!

EXEUNT, *struggling for the bottle, but without anger or animosity, the* FEM. MINST. *appearing by degrees to obtain a superiority in the contest.*

END OF ACT II.

ACT THE THIRD—contains the eclaircissements and final arrangement between CASIMERE, MATILDA, and CECILIA; which so nearly resembles the concluding Act of 'STELLA,' that We forbear to lay it before our Readers.

ACT IV.

SCENE—*The Inn door—Diligence drawn up.* CASIMERE *appears superintending the package of his Portmanteaus, and giving directions to the Porters.*

Enter BEEFINGTON *and* PUDDINGFIELD.

PUDD.—Well, COACHEY, have you got two inside places?

COACHMAN—Yes, your Honour.

PUDD.—*seems to be struck with* CASIMERE's *appearance. He surveys him earnestly, without paying any attention to the* COACHMAN, *then doubtingly pronounces*—CASIMERE!

CASIMERE—*turning round rapidly, recognizes* PUDDINGFIELD, *and embraces him.*—My PUDDINGFIELD!

PUDD.—My CASIMERE!

CASIMERE—What, BEEFINGTON too! *(discovering him.)*—Then is my joy complete.

BEEF.—Our fellow traveller, as it seems?

CASI.—Yes, BEEFINGTON—but wherefore to *Hamburgh?*

BEEF.—Oh, CASIMERE*—To fly—to fly—to return—*England*—our Country—MAGNA CHARTA—it is liberated—a new Æra—House of Commons—Opposition—

CASI.—What a contrast! you are flying to Liberty and your home—I driven from my home by Tyranny—am exposed to Domestick Slavery in a Foreign Country.

BEEF.—How domestick slavery?

CASI.—Too true—Two wives—*(slowly, and with a dejected air, then after a pause)*—You know my CECILIA?

PUDD.—Yes, five years ago.

CASI.—Soon after that period I went upon a visit to a Lady in *Wetteravia*—My MATILDA was under her protection—alighting at a Peasant's Cabin, I saw her on a charitable visit, spreading bread and butter for the Children, in a light blue riding habit.—The simplicity of her appearance—the fineness of the weather—all conspired to interest me—my heart moved to her's—as if by a magnetick sympathy.—We wept, embraced, and went home together—She became the mother of my PANTALOWSKY.—But five years of enjoyment have not stifled the reproaches of my conscience—her ROGERO is languishing in captivity—If I could restore her to *him!*

BEEF.—Let us rescue him.

CASI.—Will without power,† is like Children playing at Soldiers.

BEEF.—Courage without power,‡ is like a consumptive Running Footman.

CASI.—Courage without power is a contradiction.§—Ten brave men might set all *Quedlinburgh* at defiance.

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* See 'COUNT BENYOWSKY; or, the CONSPIRACY of KAMSCHATKA,' where CRUSTIEW, an old Gentleman of much sagacity, talks the following nonsense.

CRUSTIEW—*(with youthful energy and an air of secrecy and confidence)*—'To fly, to fly, to the Isles of Marian—the Island of Tinian—a terrestrial Paradise.—Free—Free—a mild climate—a new created Sun—wholesome fruits—harmless inhabitants—and Liberty—Tranquillity.'

† See 'Count Benyowsky,' as before.

‡ See 'Count Benyowsky.

§ See 'Count Benyowsky' again. From which Play this and the preceding references are taken word for word. We acquit the Germans of such reprobate silly stuff. It must be the Translator's.

BEEF.—Ten brave men—but where are they to be found?

CASI.—I will tell you—marked you the WAITER?

BEEF.—The WAITER?—*(doubtingly.)*

CASI.—*(In a confidential Tone)*—No Waiter, but a *Knight Templar.* Returning from the Crusade, he found his Order dissolved, and his person proscribed.—He dissembled his rank, and embraced the profession of a Waiter.—I have made sure of him already.—There are, besides, an Austrian and a Prussian Grenadier. I have made them abjure their National enmity, and they have sworn to fight henceforth in the cause of Freedom. These, with YOUNG POTTINGEN, the WAITER and ourselves, make Seven. The TROUBADOUR, with his two attendant Minstrels, will complete the Ten.

BEEF.—Now then, for the execution—*(with enthusiasm.)*

PUDD.—Yes, my Boys—For the execution—*(clapping them on the back.)*

WAITER.—But hist! We are observed.

TROUBADOUR.—Let us by a Song conceal our purposes.

RECITATIVE, ACCOMPANIED.*

CASIMERE.—Hist! Hist! nor let the airs that blow
From NIGHT's cold lungs, our purpose know!
PUDDINGFIELD.—Let SILENCE, mother of the dumb
BEEFINGTON.—Press on each lip her palsied thumb!
WAITER.—Let PRIVACY, allied to Sin,
That loves to haunt the tranquil Inn—
GRENADIER and TROUBADOUR.—And CONSCIENCE start, when she shall view,
The mighty deed we mean to do!

GENERAL CHORUS—*Con Spirito.*

Then Friendship swear, ye faithful Bands,
Swear to save a shackled Hero!
See where yon Abbey frowning stands!
Rescue, rescue, brave ROGERO!
CASIMERE.—Thrall'd in Monkish Tyrant's Fetters
Shall great ROGERO hopeless lie?
YOUNG POT.—In my pocket I have Letters,
Saying, 'help me, or I die!'

Allegro Allegretto.

CAS.—BEEF.—PUD.—GREN.—TROUB. } Let us fly, let us fly,
WAIT.—and POT. *(with enthusiasm.)* } Let us help, ere he die!

(Exeunt omnes, waving their hats.)

* We believe this Song to be copied, with a small variation in metre and meaning, from a Song in 'Count Benyowsky; or, the Conspiracy of Kamschatka,'—where the Conspirators join in a chorus, *for fear of being overheard.*

SCENE—*the Abbey Gate, with Ditches, Drawbridges and Spikes.*—TIME—*about an hour before sun rise.*—*The Conspirators appear as if in ambuscade, whispering, and consulting together, in expectation of the Signal for attack.*—*The* WAITER *is habited as a Knight Templar, in the dress of his Order, with the Cross on his breast, and the Scallop on his shoulder.*—PUDDINGFELD *and* BEEFINGTON *armed with Blunderbusses and Pocket-pistols; the* GRENADIERS *in thier proper Uniforms.*—*The* TROUBADOUR, *with his attendant* MINSTRELS, *bring up the rear*—*Martial Musick*—*The Conspirators come forward, and present themselves before the Gate of the Abbey.*—*Alarum*—*Firing of Pistols*—*The Convent appear in Arms upon the walls*—*The Drawbridge is let down*—*A Body of Choristres and Laybrothers attempt a sally, but are beaten back, and the Verger killed.*—*The Beseiged attempt to raise the Drawbridge*—PUDDINGFIELD *and* BEEFINGTON *press forward with alacrity, throw themselves upon the Drawbridge, and, by the exertion of their weight, preserve it in a state of depression*—*The other Besiegers join them, and attempt to force the entrance, but without effect.*—PUDDINGFELD *makes the signal for the Battering Ram.*—*Enter* QUINTUS CURTIUS *and* MARCUS CURIUS DENTATUS, *in their proper Military Habits, preceded by the Roman Eagle*—*The rest of their Legion are employed in bringing forward a Battering Ram, which plays for a few minutes to slow time, till the entrance is forced.*—*After a short resistance, the Besiegers rush in, with shouts of Victory.*

Scene changes to the interiour of the Abbey.—*The Inhabitants of the Convent are seen flying in all directions.* (PRIOR *is brought forward between two Grenadiers.*)

The COUNT *of* WEIMAR, *who had been found feasting in the Refectory, is brought in manacled. He appears transported with rage, and gnaws his chains. The* PRIOR *remains insensible, as if stupified with grief.* BEEFINGTON *takes the keys of the Dungeon, which are hanging at the* PRIOR'*s girdle, and makes a sign for them both to be led away into confinement*—*Exeunt* PRIOR *and* COUNT, *properly guarded. The rest of the Conspirators disperse in search of the Dungeon where* ROGERO *is confined.*

END OF ACT THE FOURTH.

POLITICAL.

'Why yes, I would be heard,
Mere *talkers* now, not writers are prefer'd;
Look at *that paper*.———
A while to war with dunces, fools and knaves,
Hirelings of state, or opposition's slaves:
None shall fair virtue's stately pride deface;
The snake winds harmless round the marble base.'

Pur. Lit.

POLITICAL FALSEHOODS.

IT is considered by the democrats the wisest part they can perform, to leave extolling the coercive effects of the embargo laws, upon foreign nations, since *experience* and *reason* have long ago tested their futility. The points of attack, to which they now resort, are in every respect as destitute of truth, as their defence of the embargo was of either efficacy or force. Speaking of the Federalists, a writer in the last Chronicle advances nine or ten falsehoods, with as much impudence and effrontery, as if he really believed they rested on any semblance of truth.

'From the first moment that England began her aggressions they have been unwearied in their endeavours to palsy every measure adopted by the American government to obtain redress and in encouraging the English to continue their outrages.' *Chronicle, May* 18, 1809.

The first aggressions of England were seizures and condemnations of property under the 'rule of war of '56,' and the *principles* of this rule we will venture to assert have been more systematically, ably, and effectually opposed by the federalists, than by the clamorous nonsense of all the democratick philippicks. There has hardly been any real argument advanced upon the subject by any of the democratick party, except Mr. Madison, and he gave up at the outset the very point that ought to have been most sedulously maintained. So far, then, as the arguments of the federalists have supported those of Mr. Jefferson's administration on the subject of the colonial trade (and Mr. Madison included Mr. Gore's argument in his despatches to Mr. Munroe, upon that question) in the negociations with Great-Britain, the assertion made in the Chronicle is *false*.

When the American government *refused to accept redress*, the federalists opposed a policy, the consequences of which have been, that after a year and a half of unexampled distress, we are in a situation not near so favourable as that in which we were placed three years ago.—Though the British Orders in Council are repealed, they exist in effect; whilst at that time our commerce was unshackled by coercion, or unlimited by decrees. What then has our boasted wisdom ef-

fected which might not have been done long before without dishonour, by the substitution of a different policy?

Where are the advantages which the existence of the old British treaty secured to us? They have been so neglected by our political wisdom, as to be allowed to cease; and we shall think ourselves very fortunate, if after seven years tedious negociation, we can obtain the same advantageous terms of connexion which the wisdom of our rulers had indignantly rejected. So much has the wounderful ability of Mr. Jefferson's administration been displayed, that the Chesapeak proclamation, the embargo and non-intercourse acts, the neglect of the old treaty and the rejection of the new, will probably at the end of another year have proved so very effectual, that our commerce will be about one half as extensive and profitable as it was three years ago!

'They have applauded the murder of our seamen, and prayed for war as fervently as a farmer would pray for rain.' *Chronicle, May* 18, 1809.

War with whom? If England, the assertion is disproved by all the federal papers. If France, the war policy has not been generally adopted; but this has been the idea, if the United States were compelled to choose in such a crisis as this, war with France rather than England ought to be preferred. As to the presumed applause given to the Chesapeak attack by the federalists, the writer knew the assertion to be false at the time he penned the paragraph.

'They have *advocated* British taxation;
'They have *approved* of British licences;
'They have *applauded* the impressment of *American* seamen on board British ships of war. *Chronicle, May* 18.

If we understand the Chronicle in regard to what they denominate British taxation and British licences, the assertion made above is absolutely false. If they mean the taxation and licence implied in the Orders in Council, it is very well understood, that the federalists uniformly have been opposed to those Orders. If in point of principle, they now contend against the rule 'which prohibits neutrals from the enjoyment of any trade in time of war, from which they were debarred in time of peace,' how much more strongly must they be opposed to the doctrine of the Orders in Council, which implied all which the rule of war of 1756 contained, and other principles a great deal more pernicious, both in the abstract and in the practical effect. On the contrary, if the Chronicle intends by the terms *taxation and licence* to convey any other meaning than that to which we have just alluded, we defy them to produce the instances in which the federalists have *approved* the one, or *vindicated* the other.

As to the assertion 'that the federalists have applauded the impressment of American seamen,' it is so far from true that the federalists by

such an approval would go even beyond the point the British aim at obtaining. They not only do not want to impress Americans, but a provision was made in the last treaty, rejected by Mr. Jefferson, stipulating that all commanders of privateers before they receive their commissions, shall, with two sureties, be jointly and severally bound in the sum of two thousand pounds sterling; or if such privateer be provided with above one hundred and fifty seamen or soldiers in the sum of four thousand pounds sterling, to satisfy all damages and injuries which the said privateer, their officers or men may do or commit, in searching of merchant ships.

An arrangement could always have been made with the British government to exempt Americans from impressment; it is ridiculous to say the federalists are in favour of such impressment, since they, more likely than the other party, would first become the victims of their own temerity and fool-hardy opinions.

'They have formed a *northern confederacy*, consisting of choice spirits from various parts of New-England, Canada, Nova-Scotia, New-Brunswick, Quebeck, &c. with intention to separate the northern states from the American union; and

'They have attempted to scatter far and wide the firebrands of discord, by exciting the people to oppose the laws, arm themselves against government, and distract the country with the horrors of civil war.'

Chronicle, May 18.

The frequent occasions we have taken to charge the Chronicle with falsehoods and misrepresentations, seems not in the least to dampen the fire of invention with which the faculties of its writers appear so ardently burning. They have a noble disdain of reputation; and the silence they have preserved, since the charges which we have made cannot be very easily refuted, has been imposed by a necessity, as imperious as it is disgraceful. The lies which, we are now considering, had their commencement in that paper, and are too gross to be adopted by the more cautious editor of the Patriot. The Chronicle must beware of relying too much upon the infamy of its name, for extending its circulation, since there is a point of corruption which will nauseate the senses of the most depraved political demagogue. The Patriot, by the subtilty of its deportment, by conferring a degree of plausibility upon its statements, we apprehend, will soon come to supercede the use of a paper replete with lies of such unblushing effrontery, and misrepresentations of such daring hardihood, as are ranged in the Chronicle. We anticipate the period of its mental decease; it has already sunk into miserable decrepitude, and when its time arrives we have no doubt the hostile efforts of its expiring malignity will be like those of the frenzied Condorcet, to spit with spiteful venom at heaven, and denounce its authority and justice.

The idea of a northern confederacy is so absurd in its very nature, the pretended objects of it are so improbable, and the agents destined to act in it so uncongenial, that no writer but the ostensible editor of the Chronicle, could for a moment admit the hypothesis. We should suppose the modesty of the Patriot editor would become alarmed at the dangers attending such monstrous fabrications, and would consider it a paramount duty to oppose his mountainous authority to the current of such nonsensical delusions.

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

IT is a melancholy reflection that the efforts of the democratick party, the peculiar pretensions of which has always been to economise the publick expenditures, should have forced the federalists to enlarge the number of representatives in the Legislature of this state, in order to preserve their rights and maintain their influence. The democrats wished, undoubtedly, to extend their own numbers to the remotest verge of right, and now that they are defeated in their scheme of offence, are denouncing Boston for the number of members which she has chosen to represent her. There appears to be no reason why the political influence of the capital should not be preserved and enforced as well as that of any country village. Unless some scheme of general and equal reduction of the numbers of representatives be adopted, the only safe policy for the federalists will be to choose their full number. Otherwise a state decidedly federal in its politicks, might have a democratick ascendancy in the House of Representatives; the people would not be justly represented, and the very objects of a republican representation would thereby be defeated. Nothing can therefore be more absurd than the arguments of the democrats, as to the preponderating influence of Boston. Let them agree to reduce their numbers in every town in the state, and Boston will set an unparalleled example to the federal towns. So long, however, as the aim of the hostilities of the jacobins, is not the publick good, but only to harass and annoy their adversaries, it becomes the imperious and commanding duty of the federalists to exert their utmost energy in counteracting their machinations.

The absurdity of our representative scheme will be rendered apparent, if we contemplate for a moment an accession of population of three times our present number of inhabitants. On this supposition we might have a House of Representatives of more than EIGHTEEN HUNDRED MEMBERS; a political monster, which would destroy the very fabrick of government. When the whole of the provinces of France sent *five hundred* members to their council, it was universally denominated a 'many headed monster,' and the tyranny of its power

was visibly felt in the remotest extremities of the globe. The Legislature of Massachusetts has already past that number, and every succeeding year will add to the magnitude of our dangers. It is therefore seriously to be wished that some plan may be adopted, by which this excessive representation may be restrained; and that the present Legislature may recommend a mode which may terminate hereafter in equal representation, reduced numbers and radical reform.

MR. OGILVIE'S ORATIONS.

THE success of this gentleman in Boston has been highly flattering to his talents. He has pronounced six orations, and the enthusiasm which he excited at first has not diminished; on the contrary, the number of persons who were excluded from admission on the first night because all the tickets were disposed of, having increased every succeeding evening, was greatest on the last. The company was always uncommonly respectable. We have no disposition at present to enter into any elaborate remarks upon the nature of his orations, and investigate their peculiarities of excellence; it is however, but justice to Mr. Ogilvie to observe that he more completely enchains the attention, by stronger appeals to feeling, in his utterance, than any publick speaker to whom we have ever attended. These productions too, are highly figurative, passionate, and declamatory; perhaps they owe their success in part to these peculiarities in the composition. We understand it is the intention of Mr. Ogilvie to pronounce an Oration upon the BOSTON ATHÆNEUM, for the benefit of that institution. There certainly is no theme, which is more calculated to command the talents of a writer than the formation of so noble an establishment as that of the Athæneum in so small a place as Boston; and there is certainly no theme, which can at the same time excite stronger sensations of interest, both in the hearer and speaker.

Mr. Ogilvie intends very soon to visit *Salem*, *Newburyport*, *Portsmouth* and *Portland*, at each of which towns, he probably will pronounce one or two Orations, and we now offer him our best wishes for his success.

THE PATRIOT NEWSPAPER.

THE Editor of the Patriot finding himself detected in our last number, of three glaring inaccuracies, not to say political falsehoods, re-

sorts in his last Wednesday's paper, to the usual method of defeated mob brawlers, and being no longer able to fight like a man, 'wags his tongue' in *rude abuse* like a school boy. The editor of the Patriot is so very adroit in his management of *this* weapon of controversy, that we should suppose it vain for any competitor to presume to encounter him in the lists of personality. We are not disposed to contaminate ourselves with the dirt, with which a conflict with this person would be certain to besmear us. We shall be willing to meet him on the ground of fair controversy, whenever he can descend from grovelling in the mire.

> 'Of all mad creatures, if the learn'd are right,
> 'It is the slaver kills, and not the bite.'

If the dullness of the Ordeal was so very apparent, it surely could not be difficult to overturn the arguments it contained, or to shew how far it was palpably deficient in that respect.

The Ordeal asserted and *proved* that Great-Britain had some merit in coming to a settlement of difficulties with this country, by offering terms so advantageous and unexpected that they astonished the American government; being more favourable than their own minister was authorized to demand. This assertion was advanced in contradiction to the statement of the Patriot, that England had come to an adjustment with America on the 'precise terms offered by our government last August.' The argument of the Ordeal was either true or false, and it was the duty of the editor of the Patriot to substantiate his first statement.

The Ordeal brought forward evidence to prove that 'neutral property under the protection of a neutral flag, for more than a century previous to the French revolution, was' *not* 'by the publick law of civilized nations, free from the confiscation of belligerents, in *all* cases excepting goods contraband of war,' &c. &c. This assertion was made very peremptorily, in an illiterate, loose and virulent paper, entitled '*The Volunteer*,' printed in the Patriot. If the wind-mill author of the Volunteer can manufacture an argument to maintain his assertion, he will find we shall not shrink from the Quixotick encounter.

The editor of the Patriot was mistaken in the scope of Mr. Stephens's argument in the British House of Commons, and is probably afraid to confess it. If he chooses to maintain the assertion he has made respecting it, we will *prove* his palpable ignorance of the meaning of the English language. The various points which we have suggested, this editor 'will not answer, nor is it necessary; his silence on one hand, and personal vindictiveness on the other, 'are an answer to them all.' If he had produced a single reason, in reply to the remarks in the Ordeal, it would have been of more essential service to his cause than all the rancour of his malignity, and all the writhings of his exasperated feel-

ings could possibly effect. But no; this gentleman keeps argument at a most wary distance. He refers to the Ordeal itself; let him publish the remarks which occasioned the reference and suffer his own readers to judge of the soundness of the logick. But he knows better; he is sensible that they would attribute all this affected contempt to a feeling of real mortification.

The acute sense, which this editor has of the ridiculous, should caution him not to make use of the term '*learned puppy*' too frequently, for the misjudging publick will be apt to apply it, not to Mr. Pinchbeck's dog, but to him who barks at merit, and likes the hand of infamy with crouching servility.

We have only to add, that we shall occasionally hereafter take the liberty to refute the political falsehoods and ridicule the literary absurdities with which the Patriot so frequently teems. If the editor chooses to answer the argument, he shall be noticed, though we are afraid the truth will never penetrate the thick rotundity of his prejudices, nor the more zig-zag entrance of his perverted brains.

POETRY.

ON A STATESMAN RETIRED.

"Of treaties fond, o'erweening of his parts,
In every treaty of his own mean arts,
He fell the dupe; peace was his coward cause,
E'en at the time when justice call'd for wars.
His pen he'd draw to prove his lack of wit,
But rather than unsheath the sword, submit.
False friend, false son, false father, and false king;
False wit, false statesman, and false every thing."

EPIGRAMS.

When a Partizan dies of true Jacobin leaven,
Where he'll go 'tis not easy to tell;
For a king he must have, if he goes up to heaven,
And a king if he goes down to hell.

That ladies are the softer sex 'tis said;
True, sir—they're soft in heart, in hand and head.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 21.] SATURDAY, MAY 27, 1809. [Vol. I.

POLITICAL.

As there are to be found in the ſervice of envy, men of every diverſity of temper, and degree of understanding, calumny is diffuſed by all arts and methods of propagation. Nothing is too groſs or too refined, too cruel or too trifling, to be practiſed; very little regard is had to the rules of honourable hoſtility, but every weapon is accounted lawful; and thoſe who cannot make a thruſt at life, are content to keep themſelves in play with petty malevolence, to teize with feeble blows and impotent diſturbance. *Rambler.*

PREFATORY REMARKS.

FEW people are inclined to enter into the views of an author in a long and elaborate inveſtigation of the points in national policy which may have been adopted by government, particularly if they are obſcured by any intrinſick intricacy, or difficulty of elucidation. A long argument deters the mind of a general reader; and a ſubtle controverſy, in order to be well underſtood, muſt be read with attention, at leiſure, and with a mind otherwiſe unoccupied. These qualifications are not always at command, or if ſome readers are ready to enter into a diſquiſition at a moment, they make a very ſmall proportion of the main body of the people; and it therefore ſeems neceſſary to reſort to ſome ſyſtem of controverſy which ſhall neither be too inſignificant to intereſt the ſcientifick politician, nor too abſtruſe to be comprehended by the great body of the people; to adopt a ſtyle of reaſoning, which, whilſt it ſhall not be deſtitute of dignity, ſhall afford pleaſure by the facility with which the information may be conveyed and the eaſe with which concluſions may be formed.

The impreſſions, therefore, which ſuch conſiderations have produced, have led us to imagine that no ſyſtem of political diſcuſſion can be of more uſe, whilſt it unites all the advantages we have ſuggeſted, than a complete expoſure of the fabrications, falſe aſſertions, misrepreſentations and errours of the democrats,

as they may be found in papers notoriously the most prostituted to the service of that party. The lies which can be proved, discovered, or inferred, will necessarily be various in their nature, so that the exposure of them will command occasionally a reference to authorities in respect to principles and facts, which will raise the composition to all the dignity of controversy, will generally afford some novelty of investigation, and will always be conducted with sufficient brevity to enable every reader to follow any single refutation without any obtrusive calls on his patience, or his time. If an objection should be advanced that the lies of the democratick prints carry an antidote to the poison they contain, in the unblushing profligacy with which it is presented, it still may be with reason advanced, that the federalists should not only be sound in their persuasion, but should be repeatedly confirmed in their faith, and the unblushing falsehoods of democracy will be a powerful motive to produce such confirmation. But besides, there are numerous artful insinuations, innuendoes, and assertions which, having a semblance of truth, are adapted to produce erroneous conclusions; these are calculated to do much mischief in society, and therefore should be acutely investigated, vigorously contested, and completely overturned. There is no necessity to refute self-evident falsehoods by long arguments; all that is necessary is to place them in a striking light, and state the main fact which is requisite to disprove the assertion; but on these subtleties of deception, the reasonings must occasionally be nice and appeals to authorities frequent; in proportion to the probable evils which they will produce must be our exertions in detecting their fallacy and turpitude.

We shall employ a considerable proportion of the present number of our paper in this service, and hope that its usefulness will be its apology to those persons, who may suppose its want of novelty to require one.

POLITICAL FALSEHOODS.

'But this faction' (the federalists) 'find they are denounced by the British ministry, by totally neglecting the system recommended by them.'

Chronicle, May 22.

Yet the Chronicle will persist in asserting that the federal editors are paid in British gold, that the British party in this country is acknowledged by the ministry (by Mr. Stephens for exam-

ple) in the House of Commons, and that they adopt a policy in Great Britain conformable to the recommendation of Mr. Pickering, and the faction, of whose diabolical machinations he is the principal mover. Notwithstanding all the ill-treatment which they have received from the ministry, notwithstanding all the grounds of discussion on which the faction formerly stood, are now considered untenable according to the Chronicle writers; yet the federalists still hug their denunciators, kiss their chains, and praise their tyrants. Let us look at the same Chronicle from which we have quoted our text.

'They' (the English faction) 'sicken at the idea of a good understanding with France; but in this they are perfectly consistent. They owe eternal hatred to the French nation for assisting this country in its struggle to throw off the British yoke, and they hate Bonaparte, because in Spain he humbled the pride of their *dear friends* the English, who took to their heels when pursued by his legions.'

'Nothing therefore, can be more clear than that the decided conduct of Mr. Jefferson in connection with the known avowal of principle by Mr. Madison must have led the ministry to retreat from the high ground which Rose had assumed, and after finding all the representations from the Boston faction, and elsewhere were likely to prove fallacious, they are obliged to submit to the unequivocal terms laid down by Mr. Jefferson and approved by Mr. Madison.' *Chronicle, May 22.*

The foregoing conclusion is drawn from an opinion expressed by the Governour of Lower Canada, that the non-intercourse law was '*a feature of hostility* more strongly marked than the embargo,' which idea is disproved by the declaration of Mr. Erskine, that the non-intercourse law, by placing both France and England upon the same level, was *the cause which produced the repeal* of the Orders in Council in favour of America, and removed the difficulties which had previously existed respecting the amount of reparation due for the aggression on the Chesapeak. The difference of opinion between the Governour of Canada and the English minister, Mr. Erskine, is then a *proof* of the efficacy of the embargo! The whole of the passage we have quoted, as our text, is utterly destitute of truth, whether it be considered as a statement of facts, or a proposition of arguments. The passage in the first place alludes to the '*decided conduct* of Mr. Jefferson,' let the democrats shew this decision. Next, the as-

sertion, is that the English 'ministry have *retreated from the high ground* which Rose had assumed.' This is false in two views; for Mr. Rose never *assumed* any ground, he merely acted in obedience to his instructions; but it would be very difficult to show that the obstructions which then impeded the reparation for the Chesapeak aggression were not removed by our non-intercourse law; which the democrats must do before they can affirm with truth that the British ministers have *retreated* from their first position.

Another false insinuation is too ridiculous to refute; it is the idea of any representation being made to the British government from the federalists in America; yet it has been made the theme of democratick brawling in the Chronicle for years, without a single argument either from reason or fact, to substantiate the notion, without the least colour of truth to decorate it with a remote semblance of plausibility.

Another assertion is that the British government has 'been obliged to submit to the unequivocal terms laid down by Mr. Jefferson and approved by Mr. Madison.' We will now affirm that this suggestion is not only destitute of truth, but that our administration of government have deserted their own ground in various important particulars. We challenge any democratick paper to prove either the assertion from this Chronicle, viz. 'that the British government have submitted to our terms,' or to disprove the assertion which we have made, viz. 'that our government have deserted their own ground in various important particulars.' If they meet the argument fairly, and come properly into the discussion, they may rely upon it, that we shall not withdraw from the strictest investigation of all the points involved in the controversy. But we shall not descend to notice individual abuse, to repel indiscriminate assault, nor general declamation.

MISREPRESENTATION.

'The Washington and Adams federalists *must be ashamed of their views of France*, while their patrons are so lavish in their praise.' *Chronicle, May 29.*

It is no less singular than absurd, that any set of men in this country should complain of their political opponents for abusing *imperial* France. The dangers of her power, and the unlimited ambition of her ruler, should be placed constantly in the view of the people of America, to prepare them to meet with

fortitude, and repel with courage, all the efforts of Napoleon to subjugate them. Have the democrats extolled republican France? Have they used all their endeavours to extend their principles by the formation of jacobinical societies, have they extinguished their former old fashioned prejudices in order to purify themselves for worship in the temple of republican liberty? And yet do they now make the theme of their most extravagant panegyrick, the *man* who has overturned that temple, who has not left one stone resting upon another in the fabrick; the tyrant who has extinguished every right but that of power, and violated every tender feeling for the gratification of his malignant passions, who in one word has made France a military despotism? The deceptions of French republicanism no longer delude; we have long ago found out the corruption that lurked within, though the sepulchre was attractive without. But French despotism is more manifestly dangerous to us, than even the anarchy of the revolution. The ancient countries are chained and fastened by the mighty grasp of the gigantick despot; we no longer apprehend what *may* be done to subvert the liberties of existing governments; we have witnessed what *has been* done in utterly destroying that liberty. We want no Edmund Burke to raise the spirits of sedition, malignity, turbulence, and oppression, and then to dispel them by the day light of his understanding. Our dangers, horrid and portentous, are thickening every moment in the political horizon, and every moment approach us; the comet shakes from his horrid hair, dismay and death; yet the democrats hail the day with rapture, when 'pestilence and war' may be realized from the dreadful luminary, and denounce the federalists that they contemplate the prospect of such scenes with any other sensations than those of rapturous exultation.

GOVERNOUR LINCOLN AGAIN.

'The commander in chief felicitates himself that from these instructions there will be seen as well the indications of a friendly adjustment with France as with Great-Britain, and that should such be the happy fruits of the pacifick and wise policy pursued by the late administration, it cannot fail of forcing in return, grateful acknowledgments from the candour and patriotism of every American. He congratulates his fellow citizens on the superiour resources their country *possesses for preserving peace, and her rights in a disciplined militia and commercial regulations*; these are fully evinced by actual experience and reflection on the nature and tendency of past measures.'

General Orders of May 13, 1809.

The reasoning of his Honour the Lieutenant Governour of this commonwealth upon the subject of a friendly adjustment of our differences with foreign nations, not being in itself sufficiently erroneous, he undertakes to use it at an improper time, and in a place where we should least have expected it, a military order. It seems the President of the United States has instructed his Honour, that the detachment of the 11,000 militia formed in this state last November, is no longer required to be held in readiness for actual service; hence his Honour comes to the decided conclusion which is drawn in the quotation we have just made. The venomous malignity and spite which Mr. Lincoln feels would probably never have been spurted forth in an official shape, unless he had seized as a last resort, this most improper vehicle of conveyance: but we presume his Honour may have determined to continue consistent until the final termination of his political career. A death-bed repentance can have no attractions for a man without a sense of shame, without any established principles of faith. Let us examine for a moment the points which he has suggested in one short paragraph, that are not founded in reason or on fact.

1st. That indications of a settlement with France as well as Great-Britain, may be discovered in the directions to disband the militia.

2d. That these adjustments will have been the fruits of the pacifick and wise policy pursued by the late administration.

In the first place these instructions can afford no indications of an adjustment with Great-Britain; the best indications upon that subject, were the letters of Mr. Erskine and Mr. Smith; and the instructions were the result of that friendly adjustment.—With regard to France it must be well known to his Honour, that not a single fact has transpired which can warrant the conclusion that she is even favourably disposed towards this country. On the contrary, it would not be in the least degree surprizing if Napoleon should prefer a series of complaints against us, in consequence of our accommodation with Great-Britain, and probably declare, though he could not be able to conduct, a war against the United States. That the British ministry imagine this will be the course of his conduct, it is not unreasonable to presume. How otherwise can it be accounted for, that in this settlement with us, they have offered terms much *within* the line of

limitation upon which the non-intercourse law was established? Mr. Pinckney was authorized to settle our differences, or at least to restore commercial intercourse upon terms infinitely less favourable to us than those which we have now been spontaneously offered by Great-Britain. This is a kind of game which we should naturally expect from the subtlety of Mr. Canning's diplomacy; but we have no reason to believe that he would, without some really powerful, indeed without some almost irresistible motive, consent to a settlement of the dispute between the two countries upon the liberal conditions on which the controversy is now based, when he had it completely in his power almost to have dictated a renewal of commercial intercourse to the American government. 'There is something in this policy more than natural, if philosophy could find it out.'

It is ridiculously futile then, to suppose in opposition to probability, as well as in direct repugnance to fact, that any indications are to be seen in the instructions of the President relative to the detachment of the militia, that France as well as Great-Britain, has come to a friendly adjustment. France began the aggression upon us by unjust edicts against neutral commerce and we do not believe she will see any reason to change her plan of hostility, especially when she will percieve very clearly, that she will not be able to derive any benefit from her colonies. They will certainly be blockaded by Great-Britain, in order to secure the advantages of her own West-Indian monopoly. The late Dutch decree too is another consideration, directly in the teeth of the supposition, that any accommodation with France is to occur.—A decree more hostile in its effects, more unprincipled in its doctrine, and more inhuman in its nature, than all the impressment system which is practised by Great-Britain. But if France must be coupled with England, by his Honour, in this accommodation, why is not the correspondence in which it has been concluded upon made publick? His Honour's order erroneously places both nations upon the same level of accommodation.

In respect to the second point on which he congratulates his fellow citizens, on the importance of the militia and commercial regulations, in restraining the temerity of foreign nations, we cannot but view such an hypothesis with alternate pity and contempt. That a man who even pretends to assume the name, much less aim at the character of a statesman, should expect the

terrours of our militia men of buckram, and our parchment hostility, should frighten Great-Britain into compliance with our system of policy, and make Napoleon tremble for the loss of the *property* of his subjects, who utterly disregards how many of their lives he sacrifices to consummate his ambition, would be as utterly incredible as it is preposterous, did not the opinions of his Honour Levi Lincoln give currency to the absurdity.—Yes, these adjustments of our differences have 'been the fruits of the pacifick and wise policy pursued by the late administration.' We presume the raising 100,000 militia is pacifick policy; at any rate it is just about as coercive as our non-intercourse and embargo systems. The truth is, we must resort to other causes than those inefficient ones, to discover the reasons which have produced the late happy termination of our national differences.

It is fortunate for his Honour, that he is about to retire, just at the present moment; since his daring conduct respecting the militia last winter has not yet been forgotten. The attempt to enforce without authority the last embargo law, which stamped such indelible infamy upon the administration which enacted it; the peculiar circumstances of cunning, turpitude and hypocrisy which accompanied the transaction, and the secrecy which betrayed his Honour's conviction of his crime, have marked this feature in his conduct with a character so indelibly infamous, that the most superficial novice in physiognomy, on the first exhibition of the picture, would shrink with horror at the contemplation of his visage. It is fortunate therefore that his Honour is about to quit the scene of business, though not the scene of disgrace; he may now escape impeachment; but had he remained, it is probable the justice of his country would have condemned him to an exemplary fate, commensurate with the blackness of his designs.

POPULAR ERRORS

Respecting the number of the French armies, refuted.

THE expectation of hostilities between France and Austria renders all military discussions of peculiar interest at the present moment.—The following intelligent remarks upon the state of the French armies are taken from the *London National Register.*

'Let us now examine if the etats of the French army are not false and exaggerated. But we must make a material discrimination. The exaggerations of the French are not an effect of vanity and folly, but a characteristick feature in Bonaparte's system. By this pompous display of his military resources, he expected to strike a terrour into all the states of Europe, and to convince them how useless resistance would be to such an army. Let us now see how far the armies he employed against Austria and Russia in the year 1805, will agree with the etat he published in the beginning of the same year.

'Bonaparte long foresaw the coalition forming against him by this country, the emperours Alexander and Francis. In order to convince the French however, that this event was unexpected, he gave orders that the army collected at Boulogne, Brest, and Holland, should embark, in order to make the vaunted invasion of England. He had two objects in view when he made this gasconade. He wanted to convince the French that this project was capable of execution, and thus save his own reputation; whilst he hoped to prevent our government from sending immediate assistance to the allies. His second object was to make his soldiers, whom he knew to feel the greatest repugnance and apprehension to a meeting with our seamen, enter with greater alacrity on a continental war. The wary usurper was not mistaken in his expectations. He kept the soldiers confined for about five or six days on board the vessels destined for this grand expedition; and when they were informed that the *perfidy* of the Austrian government obliged them to defer their vengeance against the tyrants of the ocean, they gave unequivocal proof of their joy at being employed on any other service, than that of attempting a descent on our shores. They therefore proceeded with greater alacrity to attack the Austrians and Russians on the banks of the Danube. The terrour they felt at the possibility of a rencontre with our mariners outweighed every consideration, and though they by no means forgot their former ill-success against Suwarrow, this circumstance was trifling in their opinion compared to the danger of being exposed to the thunder of our navy. As we had an opportunity of procuring at that time an exact amount of three corps of that army, we hope to be able to form a satisfactory conclusion as to the amount of the whole.

'This army, with which Bonaparte intended to oppose Mack and the Russians, consisted at first of eight corps, to which a ninth was afterwards added. When Marmont's corps passed through Cologne, the writer happened to be in that city, and as he was intimately acquainted with the mayor and one of his adjuncts, he had an opportunity of knowing precisely its amount. It consisted of 18,000 French, and 6000 Dutch, the latter commanded by Dumonceau. The whole corps, cavalry, infantry, artillery, and baggage, passed in the course of three days. No mistake could occur as to their number, because or-

ders were every day received at the mayoralty, to provide quarters for those who were to arrive on the following. He had in like manner an opportunity of ascertaining the amount of Bernadotte's corps, having spent a considerable time in Cassel, after it had passed through that city. From every intelligence he received during his stay there, he is led to believe that it did not amount to more than 14,000, though the newspaper published in that city made it consist of 17,500. The amount of Ney's corps he received from one of his aid-de-camps, with whom he lodged in the same inn, at Frankfort on the Mayne, a short time after the peace of Presburgh. If his statement may be relied on, it consisted of somewhat more than 20,000. We have thus the amount of three corps, making altogether about 61,000 men. If we take the same proportion for the other five corps, we shall find that the army commanded by Bonaparte in person, consisted of about 160,000.—When we reflect that it was joined by the troops of Bavaria, Wurtemburgh, and Baden, and had to contend with only 70,000 Austrians, conducted by a Mack, we shall find it more than adequate for overrunning Austria. However, very far from thinking we underrate its number, we are rather inclined to believe we estimate it too high. It surpassed any force the Allies could oppose to it, as much in number as it did in celerity of operation and superiority of skill on the part of the generals. Bonaparte may be a very great general, and those who look on success as the criterion of ability, may consider him as distinguished a statesman; but when the vast advantages he possessed over the allies, are taken into consideration, his victories at Ulm, Austerlitz, and Jena, must cease to excite admiration. The army commanded by Massena was never computed at more than 60,000. This distinguished officer was ordered to act on the defensive; and it is natural to suppose that Bonaparte was too jealous of his reputation to entrust him with a more numerous force. To oppose the attack which the Russians and Swedes in conjunction with lord Cathcart, threatened to make on Holland, orders were given to collect an army of 100,000 men.—We know it however, to be a positive fact, that 35,000, notwithstanding every exertion, were never assembled for that purpose; and we are happy to hear that our statement on this particular point coincides, with very immaterial difference, with that of lord Cathcart. In summing up, therefore, the different armies which were employed against Austria, and for the defence of Holland, we shall find they amount to about 250,000,

'Before we proceed further, it will be necessary to revert to the conduct observed by Bonaparte in all the wars he has been engaged in.—If any thing is to be particularly admired in his military operations, it is the audacity with which he leaves a number of points exposed, in order to bear down with his whole mass where the danger is most imminent; calculating very justly that any partial defeat he may sustain

in any of those places will be easily remedied, after he has disabled the principal antagonist. Persons who have travelled much in France, cannot have failed to observe, that in time of war, scarce a soldier is to be seen in the interiour; and after the peace of Presburgh, our readers will not have forgotten the reproaches Bonaparte made our government, that it made no attempt against Boulogne, *as every soldier had been withdrawn from the coasts*. His reproach was well grounded, for there were not 8,000 men left for its defence. We had been frequently informed and we have our information from the best authority, that 20,000 were not left for the defence of the coasts, during the whole course of the Austrian war. This account we the more easily credit, as it was conformable to sound policy, and perfectly coinciding with the uniform conduct and character of Bonaparte. He knew that Europe estimated his armies much higher than they really were; and he calculated as a sound politician, when he supposed this country would make no attempt against Brabant, as long as he was successful against Austria. His audacity, therefore, so far from deserving to be considered as rashness, was the most consummate wisdom; and the result justified his combinations. He did not overlook, in like manner, the demonstrations which Prussia began to make about that time. Is there any reason then to suppose that a man whose great abilities are universally acknowledged, would have left useless soldiers in the interiour, when their presence was so necessary in Germany? We are therefore justified in drawing the conclusion, that all his armies at that time, in which we have included his Dutch and Italian auxiliaries, with the *gens d'armerie*, did not amount to 300,000 men. This opinion is irrefragably proved by the difficulty which Mortier had, during the Prussian war, of collecting a sufficient force to resist a small army of about 14,000 Swedes in Pomerania, and his inability to keep Colberg in constant blockade, whose garrison was in the habit of making excursions for several leagues from the fortress, in one of which they made general Victor prisoner. It is necessary once more to observe that the French had only 100,000 Russians to oppose in Poland. However, notwithstanding their Rhenish confederates, their Dutch, Italian and Spanish auxiliaries, it is astonishing how very few men they left for the defence of the country between the Rhine and Vistula, a circumstance which will strongly prove the incapacity and criminal indifference of the late administration. They looked with as much apathy on the last struggle of European independence, as if it had been a predatory war between the deys of Algiers and Tunis; though every letter from Mr. Thornton must have convinced them that a diversion of about 30,000 between the Ems and Weser, particularly after the battle of Eylau, would have raised Hanover, Hessia, and perhaps Holland. But let us abandon that disgraceful subject: and hasten to our conclusion. From the facts we have alledged, supported by the late events in Spain, and

the unaccountable indifference of Bonaparte relative to the Austrian armaments, we are convinced we risk nothing in maintaining that the French army, Dutch and Italians included, does not consist of more than TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY THOUSAND MEN.

REVIEW.

TEARS and SMILES, a Comedy, by J. N. Barker.—New-York, published by David Longworth.

The INDIAN PRINCESS or LA BELLE SAUVAGE, an Operatick Melo-Drame, in three acts, by J. N. Barker.—New-York, published by David Longworth.

THE two productions which we have undertaken to notice are entitled to higher praise than most of the later dramas of Reynolds and Morton, and may claim as distinguished a rank in dramatick literature as that to which the compositions of Kenny and Allingham can reasonably aspire. There exists in this country such a want of judgment, or rather of determination, such an unconquerable prejudice against American plays, and even such a loathing to every allusion which is American in its nature, that an author is obliged to struggle in his flight to renown against an intolerable weight of prejudices and passions, which every moment threaten to sink him to the earth. Nor is this all; he is obliged to endure a comparison with men of genius in Europe, who are greatly encouraged, and whose productions reach this country without difficulty, and the charms even of local allusion which gratify in England, are with little variation equally attractive in this country. Mr. Colman was offered fourteen hundred pounds sterling, for his last play, of the Africans, by Mr. Harris, manager of the Covent Garden Theatre, and is said to have refused it. Such being the state of publick encouragement in Great Britain, the American genius would be obliged to pine in poverty, oppressed by discouragement and neglect, and like Massinger and Otway, die unnoticed and unknown, should he attempt to gain his subsistence by labours in the dramatick field. The two pieces before us are written by one author, and although by no means equal in execution, or correspondent in design, may fairly be reviewed under the same

head. The play of Tears and Smiles was first acted at the Philadelphia Theatre in the year 1807.

The plot is rather complex and not very judiciously unfolded. Mr. Campdon, during the American revolution was a merchant in Hamburgh, where he amassed an ample fortune; and returns to America, his native country, with two children, Sydney and Clara, whom accident threw in his way in Europe, but of whose origin he is utterly ignorant. A letter which he received with them, whilst it conjures him to be their father, has the name of the writer totally effaced. Campdon however, protects them and passes them upon the world as the children of a friend.—Three years before the play commences, Clara had eloped, as is supposed, no one knows with whom or whither; and Sidney gains the affections of Louisa Campdon, the daughter of his protector, so much against the inclination of her father, that he obtains for him a commission in the American navy, in order to remove him from her presence. In the mean time, old Campdon determines to marry his daughter to Fluttermore, an American coxcomb, who like the monkey in Gay's fables, had travelled to reform the times, and had just returned to Philadelphia, as the play opens, with a head filled with all the foreign absurdities which he could remember. Sidney who had inspired Louisa Campdon with a mutual passion, arrives from the Mediterranean, where he had distinguished himself at the siege of Tripoli, just as the marriage with Fluttermore is about to be consummated. Old Campdon determines to have Louisa married on that very night in order to elude the dangers which Sidney's arrival had excited, and Louisa resolves to escape from a tyranny which refused her the respite of a day. Sidney, on the other hand, equally distressed, consults with Osbert, a friend who had returned with him from Gibraltar, upon the propriety of an elopement; he dissuades him, and at length, finding every other argument fruitless, *commands* him on the authority of a *father*, not to disgrace his parents and his own honour, by ingratitude to his benefactor. The elopement is thus prevented. Fluttermore it seems, had been the seducer of Clara, three years before, and she had retired into obscurity, near the seat of General Campdon, and hearing of the marriage which was about to take place, she comes forward to require Fluttermore to protect his offspring; but he in the mean time, hearing of her distress, agrees to make

her all the amends in his power by marriage: and as he has never been anxious for a connection with Miss Campdon, the way is thus regularly opened for her marriage with Sidney, Old Campdon consents, and then finds that Osbert, in whom Sidney had discovered his father, was the correspondent whose name was effaced from the letter entrusting Sidney and Clara to his care.

Madam Clermont, the wife of Albert, had married him clandestinely in Europe, against the will of her family, which was of exalted rank; she was torn from his arms and hurried to a convent, and he was compelled to fly, with his two children, from the exasperated vengeance of her family.

Albert left his children, with a letter to Campdon, in the care of a servant, who faithfully discharged his trust; but was himself hurried to Toulon and conveyed on board a vessel, which was soon afterwards taken by a Barbary corsair, and he remained a prisoner thirteen years. He sought his children in Germany, but his friend had long before disappeared; for his wife in France, but the convent was demolished and her family had become extinct; meeting with Sidney in Gibraltar, he discovered in America all the happiness he had so long been seeking in vain.

There is an underplot, which ultimately unites the Widow Freegrace with Rangely, presumptively borrowed in many respects from Hoadley's character of Ranger in the Suspicious Husband. The dialogue is often lively and animated; the characters natural, and generally well preserved. We are, however, fearful that the story is not developed with such clearness, as to leave the mind of a spectator free from perplexity at the conclusion.

The story of the Indian Princess, is extracted according to our author's account, from the General History of Virginia, written by Capt. Smith, and printed in 1624; and its principal interest is derived from the loves of Rolfe and Pochahontas, which must be familiar to most of our readers. The radical objection to this production, is the melo-dramatick cast which is given to it; but it contains occasional touches of nature, which bestow a charm upon it, in spite of the intrinsick defect in its formation. The Indian character is generally well preserved, and there is a tenderness in Pochahontas, which whilst it accords with the his-

torical account, confers uncommon interest upon the fable.—The following extract is a fair example of the phraseology of an Indian warrior:

Miami. (approaches Pochahontas, and his attendants lay skins at her feet.) Princess, behold the spoils I bring thee. Our hunters are laden with the deer and the soft furred beaver. But Miami scorned such prey. I watched for the mighty buffaloe and the shaggy bear, my club felled them to the ground, and I tore the skins from their backs. The fierce carcajou had wound himself round the tree, ready to dart upon the hunter; but the hunter's eyes were not closed, and the carcajou quivered on the point of my spear. I heard the wolf howl as he looked at the moon, and the beams that fell upon his up turned face, showed my tomahawk the spot it was to enter. I marked where the panther had couched, and before he could spring, my arrow went into his heart. Behold the spoil the Susquehannock brings thee!

The ensuing love scene between Rolf and Pochahontas is well wrought, replete with tenderness, and superiour to the composition of most of the modern European play-compilers.

Enter ROLFE *and* POCAHONTAS.

Prs. Nay let me on——
Rol. No further, gentle love;
The rugged way has wearied you already.
Prs. Feels the wood pigeon weariness, who flies,
Mated with her beloved? Ah! lover, no.
Rol. Sweet! in this grove we will exchange adieus;
My steps should point straight onward; were thou with me,
Thy voice would bid me quit the forward path
At every pace, or fix my side-long look,
Spell-bound, upon thy beauties.
Prs. Ah! you love not
The wild-wood prattle of the Indian maid,
As once you did.
Rol. By heaven! my thirsty ear,
Could ever drink its liquid melody.
Oh! I could talk with thee, till hasty night,
Ere yet the centinel day had done his watch;
Veil'd like a spy, should steal on printless feet,
To listen to our parley! Dearest love!
My captain has arrived, and I do know,
When honour and when duty call upon me,
Thou wouldst not have me chid for tardiness.
But, ere the matin of to-morrow's lark,
Do echo from the roof of nature's temple,
Sweetest, expect me.
Prs. Wilt thou surely come?
Rol. To win thee from thy father will I come;
And my commander's voice shall join with mine,
Too woo Powhatan to resign his treasure.
Prs. Go then, but ah! forget not——
Rol. I'll forget
All else, to think on thee!

Prs. Thou art my life!
I lived not till I saw thee, love; and now,
I live not in thine absence. Long, O! long
I was the savage child of savage Nature;
And when her flowers sprang up, while each green bough
Sang with the passing west wind's rustling breath;
When her warm visitor, flush'd Summer, came,
Or Autumn strew'd her yellow leaves around,
Or the shrill north wind pip'd his mournful music,
I saw the changing brow of my wild mother
With neither love nor dread. But now, O! now,
I could entreat her for eternal smiles;
So thou might'st range through groves of lovelier flowers,
Where never Winter with his icy lip,
Should dare to press thy cheek.
Rol. My sweet enthusiast!
Prs. O! 'tis from thee that I have drawn my being:
Thou'st ta'en me from the path of savage errour,
Blood-stain'd and rude, where rove my countrymen,
And taught me heavenly truths, and fill'd my heart
With sentiments sublime, and sweet and social.
Oft has my winged spirit, following thine,
Cours'd the bright day-beam, and the star of night,
And every rolling planet of the sky,
Around their circling orbits. O my love,
Guided by thee, has not my daring soul
O'ertopt the far-off mountains of the east,
Where, as our fathers fable, shadowy hunters
Pursue the deer, or clasp the melting maid,
Mid ever blooming spring? Thence, soaring high
From the deep vale of legendary fiction
Hast thou not heaven-ward turn'd my dazzled sight,
Where sing the spirits of the blessed good
Around the bright throne of the Holy One?
This thou hast done; and ah! what couldst thou more,
Belov'd preceptor, but direct that ray,
Which beams from heaven to animate existence,
And bid my swelling bosom beat with love!

The Indian Princess certainly deserves encouragement, and were it not that it is so blended with the absurdities of the melo-drama we should have no hesitation in recommending it to the attention of the managers of the Boston Theatre, for the next season.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

15 The Patriotick Proceedings of the Legislature of Massachusetts, during their Session from Jan. 26, to March 4, 1809. Boston, J. Belcher, and T. Wells.

16 The Embargo Laws, with the Message from the President, upon which they were founded; to which is added an Appendix, containing various important state papers. Boston, J. Cushing and J. Belcher.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 22.] SATURDAY, JUNE 3, 1809. [Vol. 1.

POETRY.

THE following lines to GEORGE COLMAN the Younger we hope will be found to possess sufficient interest amongst the lovers of the drama, to attract their attention. They have merit, and occasionally touch upon subjects of local application. We are so much pleased with the genius and wit of the writer to whom they are addressed, that we are happy in seizing every opportunity to extend his reputation.

HORACE, BOOK II. ODE 16.

Otium Divos rogat in patenti, &c.

TO GEORGE COLMAN THE YOUNGER, ESQ.

THE youth, from his indentures freed,
Who mounts astride the flying steed,
The Muses' hunt to follow,
With terror eyes the yawning pit,
And for a modicum of wit
Petitions great Apollo.

For wit the quarto-building wight
Invokes the Gods; the jilt in spite
Eludes the man of letters—
Wit through the wire-wove margin glides,
And all the gilded pomp derides
Of red Morocco fetters.

Vain is the smart port-folio set,
The costly inkstand, black as jet,
The desk of polish'd level;
The well shorn pens to use at will;
'Tis no great task to cut a quill—
To cut a joke's the devil!

Happy, for rural business fit,
Who merely tells his mother wit,
In rural life he settles:
Unskill'd in repartee to shine,
He ne'er exclaims—"descend, ye *nine*,"
But when he plays at skettles.

They who neglect their proper home
To dig for ore in Greece or Rome,
Are poor Quixotick Vandals;
Europe was overrun by Goths,
But why should we, like foolish moths,
Buzz round the Roman candles?

Care swarms in rivers, roads, and bogs,
Unfricaseed, like Pharoah's frogs;
We cannot all be merry.
It roams thro' London streets at large,
And now bestrides a Lord Mayor's barge,
And now a Vauxhall wherry.

The man who no vertigo feels,
When borne aloft on Fortune's wheels,
But at their motion titters;
Emerging from a sea of strife,
Enjoys the present sweets of life,
Nor heeds its future bitters.

Poor *Tobin** died, alas! too soon,
Ere with chaste ray his *Honey Moon*
Had shone to glad the nation:

* This writer, in addition to the Honey Moon, has produced The Pharo Table, The Curfew, and The School for Authors; and some others, which it seems during his life were rejected at the theatres. Some persons have expressed ſtrong doubts of the exiſtence of ſuch a man as Mr. Tobin; they conſider it very extraordinary, that a ſeries of plays, as excellent as thoſe which have been attributed to him, ſhould have remained neglected during his life, and he entirely unknown to the world. That theſe plays ſhould have appeared one by one, each as the *laſt* production of the author, is a circumſtance equally ſingular. Yet Mr. Holcroft has given us an account of his life, ſo circumſtantial and characteriſtick, that we cannot avoid giving credit to the ſuppoſition that Tobin was a real, and not a fictitious name.

This eminent poet was born at Salisbury in England, Jan. 28, 1770. He was ſent to ſchool in Southampton, when his parents left England to reſide in Nevis. In 1785 he was articled to an eminent ſolicitor of Lincoln's Inn. This gentleman died, and Tobin then became partner with three other clerks in the office; but ſome diſagreement occurring, he engaged with a

Others, I will not mention who,
For many a year may, *(entre nous)*
Outlive—their own damnation.

Who creep in prose, or soar in rhyme,
Alike must bow the knee to time,
From *Massinger* to *Murphy*.
And all who flit on Lethe's brink,
Too weak to swim, alas! must sink—
Tom Dibdin or *Tom Durfey*.

Fortune to thee two Muses gave,
One *debonnaire*, the other grave;
You hospitably screen 'em:
For still, O man of virtue rare,
Altho' the love of both you share,
You never *sleep* between 'em.

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a friend in a new firm. His health declined, and in 1803 he went to reside in Cornwall, by the advice of his physicians. His disorder terminated in a consumption; and in 1804, after having taken passage in a vessel for the West-Indies, he died on the very day she sailed. The ship returned to Cork in consequence of contrary winds; and Tobin was followed to the grave by the friend, who had undertaken to accompany him to the West-Indies.

The characteristick of Tobin seems to be delicacy of taste. There is never any greatness or depth of thought about him, but his language is always pure and harmonious, and his thinking ingenious and novel.

"Averse to walking, unless when he had a strong motive, his hours were lost in thought, or in the creations of an active mind. Abstracted and constitutionally indolent, he was alike apt to forget forms and neglect pecuniary concerns; yet, having a high sense of moral duty, he never broke even trifling engagements. He frequently composed while walking the streets, and especially songs, which he usually committed to writing when he came home. Animated by society and enjoying rational conversation, yet, as solitude never displeased him, he did not anxiously seek company; though always happy to see a few valued friends, their absence was never perceptible. Unruffled by the accidents of life, possessed of fortitude not easily shaken, and with a mind never unemployed, he was subject to no fits of weariness. He was altogether the happiest man I ever knew. Though the progress of the disease alarmed him, he contemplated death without fear or superstition. Hope and fancy pictured to him his future success on the stage, while his bodily powers were wasting and his energies daily on the decline. He died without a groan. While at Falmouth, he revised some of his works, and wrote notes on Shakespeare, intending to contribute to a new edition of our immortal bard. Two of his unfinished plays it was his intention to complete in the West-Indies. A constant reader of Beaumont and Fletcher and the writers of that age, he was no less an admirer of Farquar and some of his cotemporaries. He also read some Spanish comedies, but found little to admire, except the ingenuity of their plots. Genuine comedy he supposed might find support from the publick, and a better taste be revived, notwithstanding the mercenary motives by which it continues to be depraved."

She gave thee to a summer stage,
'Gainst opera chiefs the war to wage
With bodies lean and taper.
I list beneath *thy* Muse's wing,
Who would not rather hear her sing,
Than see her sister caper ?

My Muse is of the ostrich sort,
Her eggs, of fortune's gale the sport,
She in the sand conceals 'em ;
By no instrusive wanderer found,
Till watchman Phœbus walks his round,
And with his ray reveals 'em.

But should the god's far-darting ray,
Destroy her feeble lines to day,
She'll breed again to-morrow :
These trifles ne'er her mind annoy,
Who never knew a parent's joy,
Ne'er felt a parent's sorrow.

THE INDIAN PRINCESS.

IN our review of this play, last week, want of room obliged us to curtail our selections. We give the following scene at the commencement of the third act, as a specimen of the author's talents at humorous composition. It is certainly not inferiour to the writings of most modern English play-mongers, the opinions of their criticks to the contrary notwithstanding ; and would by no means discredit the plays of Colman or Tobin.

WALTER *and* ALICE.

Wal. One mouthful more *(kiss)*. Oh ! after a long lent of absence, what a charming relish is a kiss, served from the lips of a pretty wife, to a hungry husband.

Al. And, believe me, I banquet at the high festival of return with equal pleasure. But what has made your absence so tedious, prithee ?

Wal. Marry, girl, thus it was : when we had given the enemies of our ally, Powhatan, defeature, and sent the rough Miami in chains to Werocomoco, our captain despatches his lieutenant, Rolfe, to supply his place, here, in the town ; and leading us to the water's edge, and leaping into the pinnace, away went we on a voyage of discovery.—Some thousand miles we sailed, and many strange nations discovered ;

and for our exploits, if posterity reward us not, there is no faith in history.

Al. And what were your exploits?
Wal. Rare ones egad!
We took the devil, Okee, prisoner.
Al. And have you brought him hither?
Wal. No: his vot'ries
Redeem'd him with some score or two of deer skins.
Then we've made thirty kings our tributaries:
Such sturdy rogues, that each could easily
Fillip a buffaloe to death with 's finger.
Al. But have you got their treasures?
Wal. All, my girl.
Imperial robes of raccoon, crowns of feather;
Besides the riches of their sev'ral kingdoms—
A full boat load of corn.
Al. O wonderful!
Wal. Ay, is it not? But, best of all, I've kiss'd
The little finger of a mighty queen.
Sweet soul! among the court'sies of her court,
She gave us a Virginian Mascarado.
Al. Dost recollect the fashion of it?
Wal. Oh!
Were I to live till Time were in his dotage,
'Twould never from mine eyes. Imagine first,
The scene, a gloomy wood; the time, midnight;
Her squawship's maids of honour were the masquers;
Their masks were wolves' heads curiously set on,
And, bating a small difference of hue,
Their dress e'en such as madam Eve had on,
Or ere she eat the apple.
Al. Pshaw!
Wal. These dresses,
All o'er perfum'd with the self-same pomado
Which our fine dames at home buy of old Bruin,
Glisten'd most gorgeously unto the moon.
Thus, each a firebrand brandishing aloft,
Rush'd they all forth, with shouts and frantick yells,
In dance grotesque, and diabolical,
Madder than mad Bacchantes.
Al. O the powers!
Wal. When they had finished the divertisement
A beauteous Wolf-head came to me—
Al. To you?
Wal. And lit me with her pine-knot torch to bed-ward.

Where, as the custom of the court it was,
The beauteous Wolf-head blew the flambeau out,
And then—
Al. Well!
Wal. Then, the light being out, you know,
To all that follow'd, I was in the dark.
Now you look grave. In faith I went to sleep.
Could a grim wolf rival my gentle lamb?
No, truly, girl: though in this wilderness
The trees hang full of divers colour'd fruit,
From orange-tawny, to sloe-black, egad,
They'll hang until they rot or ere I pluck them,
While I've my melting rosy nonpareil.
Al. O! you're a Judas!
Wal. Then I am a Jew!

ON RELIGIOUS MADNESS OR ENTHUSIASM.

I THINK it is pretty evident that madness is a super-abundance of vital spirits, which must burst their vessel, if they do not overflow, or be let out by tapping; but which way soever they find their evacuation, they generally ferment first, and make a terrible combustion within. This is the devil which haunts us, and often carries away part of an empty house, or blows it up. If he ascend to our garrets or upper regions, he disorders the brain, and shews visions, airy and romantick images and appearances, carries the hero out of himself, and then sends him armed cap-a-pee, in wild expeditions, to encounter wind-mills, and giants of his own making; till at last he return home (if ever he return home) transported with his victory, and in his own opinion a most consummate knight-errant.

Whenever the mind cannot be confined within its inclosure, but flies like *Phaeton* into the great abyss, and gives the full reins to imagination, it will quickly be carried out of its knowledge, and ramble about wherever fancy, desire, or vision, leads it. It will quickly rise above humanity, become proper conversation for the celestial beings; and when once it can persuade itself into such angelical company, will certainly despise all other; and the man who is animated by it will think he has a right to gov-

ern all. If the excess of any passion be madness, the excess of them altogether is exorbitant and outrageous madness; and whoever can get it into his head that he has secret communications with the deity, must have all his passions at work together.—The awe of a divine presence must strike him strongly with fear and reverence: The fancied indulgence and condescension shewn him, must raise the highest love, adoration and transports of joy: So visible a partiality of the deity to him beyond other men, must create pride and contempt towards others: Such a support and assistance must inspire the highest courage and resolution to overcome all opposition: Hatred and revenge to all who do not believe him will bring up the rear. At last the jumble of all these passions, with many more, will make an accomplished reformer of mankind.

You never knew a madman of any sort, who was not wiser than all mankind, and did not despise his whole race, who were not blessed with the same obliquity of head. Those in *Bedlam* think that they are all mad who are out of it; and the madmen out of *Bedlam* pity the madmen in it. The *Virtuoso*, or dealer in butterflies, who lays himself out in the science of blue and brown beetles, thinks all science but his own to be useless or trifling. The collectors of old books are of opinion, that learning, which is intended to improve and enlighten the understanding, is inseparable from dust, and dirt, and obscurity, or contemptible without them. The Pedant loads his heavy head with old words, and scorns all those who are not accomplished with the same lumber.

Now, all these madmen, and many more who might be added, are harmless enthusiasts; and their pride being part of their madness, is only a jest. But your holy enthusiast is often a mischievous madman, who out of pure zeal for God, destroys his creatures, and plagues, and harasses, and kills them for their good. The Saracens, a barbarous, poor, and desert nation, half naked, without arts, unskilled in war, and but half armed, animated by a mad Prophet, and a new religion, which made them all mad; overrun and conquered all Asia, most part of Africa, and a part of Europe. Such courage, fierceness, and mischief, did their enthusiasm inspire. It is amazing how much they suffered, and what great things they did, without any capacity of doing them, but a religion which was strong in proportion as it wanted charity, probability, and common sense.

They saw rapturous visions in the air, of beautiful damsels richly attired, holding forth their arms, and calling to them for their embraces; and being animated by such powerful deities, no enterprize was too hard for them. They scarce ever departed from any siege, however inferiour to it in military arts or numbers. Their constant rule was to fight till they had subdued their enemies, either to their religion or to pay tribute. They had God and his great apostle on their side, and were obstinately determined to die, or to conquer; and therefore they always did conquer. And their success confirmed their delusion; for finding that they performed greater actions than any other race of mankind ever did, or could do, they believed themselves assisted by heaven; and so esteemed their madness to be inspiration. And then it was very natural to believe that they were the sole favourites of the Almighty, who interposed thus miraculously in their behalf; that they were employed to do this work that all the good things of this world were but just rewards of their obedience; and consequently that it was their duty to plunder, distress, kill, and destroy all who resisted the will of God, and denied to give to them their undoubted right.

Now what was able to withstand the inspired savages; who if they lived and conquered, had this world, or, which was better, if they were killed, had the next? They were sure either of empire or paradise; a paradise too, which gratified their carnal appetites. There is no dealing with an armed enthusiast: If you oppose real reason to his wild revelations, you are cursed; if you resist him, you are killed. It signifies nothing to tell him, that you cannot submit to the impulses of a spirit which you have not, and which you do not believe; and that when you have the same spirit you will be of the same mind: No, perhaps that very spirit has told him, that he must kill you for not having it, though you could no more have it, than you could be what you were not.

Don Quixote was a more reasonable madman: He never beat, nor famished, nor tortured the unbelieving Sancho, for having a cooler head than his own, and for not seeing the extraordinary miracles and visions which he himself saw. If a man see battles in the air, or armies rising out of the sea, am I to be persecuted because I cannot see them too, when they are not to be seen! Or ought not rather their distracted *Seer* to be shut up

in a dark room, where no doubt he will have the same sights, and be equally happy in his own imaginations? As there is no reasoning with an enthusiast, there is no way to be secure against him, but by keeping him from all power, with which he will be sure to play the devil in God's name. I would not hurt him for his ravings, but I would keep him from hurting me for not raving too.

All men who can get it into their heads, that they are to subdue others to their opinions, reasonings and speculations, are enthusiasts or impostors, madmen or knaves. Almighty God has given no other light to men to distinguish truth from falsehood, or imposture from revelation, but their reason; and in all the addresses which he himself makes to them, appeals to that reason. He has formed us in such a manner, as to be capable of no other kind of conviction; and consequently can expect no other from us: It must therefore be the last degree of impudence, folly and madness, in impotent, fallible and faithless men, to assume greater power over one another, than the Almighty exercises over us all.

The appointing judges in controversy, is like setting people at law about what they are both in possession of. A man can have no more than all he is contending for; and therefore I can compare the quarrelling of two men about their religion, to nothing else in nature, but to the battle between Prince Volscius and Prince Prettyman, in the Rehearsal, because they were not both in love with the same mistress. *Cato's Letters.*

POLITICAL.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

AS the conduct of Mr. Madison, in his determinations upon the liberal offers made by Great-Britain, has been eminently praise-worthy, he has of course been applauded by the federalists without any qualification of praise. It was natural that they should view with suspicion a man who had been so long intimately connected with Mr. Jefferson and his most pernicious policy; and until his subsequent transactions should have removed the first unfavourable impressions, it was natural that previous

suspicions should remain undiminished. He now evinces an apparent determination to quit the course of policy which his predecessor had so unfortunately for the country adopted, and to act with sincerity, with fairness, without partiality, without hypocrisy. We soon shall see that his magnanimous conduct will excite torrents of abuse, from the party which first proposed him; the democrats will soon begin to discover flaws in his character and conduct. And before the administration of Mr. Madison is closed, we shall find him deserted by his partizans, and treated with as much coolness as the federalists expressed in regard to him previous to his election to the presidency. The federalists avow their opposition and the grounds of it; we should like to discover in the democratick papers any thing like an union or consistency of argument upon any point of political economy. They will espouse or renounce any particular person or cause without knowing why or wherefore. They will first begin to throw out hints against Mr. Madison, presently they will assume a tone of complaint, which will ultimately terminate in opposition and abuse. If he continues the system, of which he has so nobly laid the foundation, the federalists will continue to award him the meed of honour and of praise, and strenuously support his measures; but the moment he wavers from the direct path of policy which the interests of the nation promptly require him to follow, they will immediately withdraw to the other side, and think themselves doubly justified in their opposition.

In the message which the president has communicated to Congress we are presented with a state of our publick affairs, which, when contrasted with that at which they were left at the termination of the last session, may be considered peculiarly auspicious. The nation was then sinking in despair; Congress knew not how to act nor where to turn; the executive had boldly began an experiment on a whole people; the nerves and fibres were all laid open to the unfeeling touch of an ignorant practitioner, who equally disregarded the groans of the subject and the success of the operation: complaints, invective, distrust, and opposition were continually accumulating, and the country exhibited indications of a complete change in its political temper and character. The habits of the people, their property, and character were daily deteriorating, in consequence of a course of policy as ridiculous, impotent, and impracticable, as

it was dangerous, tyrannical, and destructive of social order. Foreign nations had openly disregarded our menaces and laughed at our folly; we had lost all the little respect which we had ever gained abroad. In short, the aspect of the country, in whatever light it could be considered, was more calamitously terrible, the ruin which seemed to be approaching was more overwhelming, than perhaps any other age of the world, or any country under such circumstances of previous prosperity, could exhibit. The effects of this Jeffersonian policy will cause him to be execrated to the end of time; and the last historian of America will point to that administration, as the most stupid and ignorant, the most inconsistent with its avowed principles, the most tyrannical whilst it professed lenity, the most extravagant whilst it pretended to economy, the most cowardly whilst it bullied the world, that the country had ever seen. It will be viewed as a pestilential comet, a kind of meteor, of which

"scarce such an one appears
Within the circuit of a thousand years."

As the eccentrick meteor has descended beneath the horizon, our terrours sink, and the prospect of fair weather and a serene sky begins to break upon us. Mr. Madison, we sincerely hope, will fulfil the expectations of his fellow-citizens: he has now as fair an opportunity as ever was presented to a ruler, of making himself beloved and his country happy. And we are free to say, that his message to Congress affords no indications of a contrary tendency in his character.

THE NEW TREATY.

THE principal points to be negociated in the new British Treaty with this country will be relative to the protection of persons under the merchant flag, and the rule which it will be necessary to observe in order to break the continuity of a voyage from the colony to the mother country, of a belligerent. The following plan was formerly recommended to the English government.

'Suppose the right of searching were strictly confined to national ships; that no seaman were liable to be impressed who could prove by unsuspicious documents, his having been out of England a certain num-

ber of years in proportion to his age; that the master of the American vessel, upon affidavit, supported by two sureties residing in England, that an American born subject had been taken from his crew, should have a right to obtain his surrender, for the purpose of bringing an action against the English captain in a *court of common law*, where he might obtain exemplary damages. Suppose, further, that every American merchant v el were declared seizable, of which above a certain proportion of the crew should be British subjects who had left their country within a certain period of their lives, and that the cruizers visiting had the option, in all cases, either of seizing the men, or of suing the master and two English sureties in an English *court of common law*, for penalty upon a bond entered into once every year, and always kept among the ship's papers, obliging him not to sail with any British seamen, as above described; it appears that sufficient checks would be imposed both upon the English cruizers and the American traders. The owners of the ships would find sureties among their mercantile correspondents in England, and would be forced to use some circumspection in hiring their crews. They would probably be satisfied with the power of applying for redress to an English court of common law, greatly as they are inclined to distrust our prize tribunals; and indeed, were the present fears of the abuse of the right of search realized, a single verdict obtained against a captain in the navy for impressing an American, would have the full effect of checking the evil. Some such method as we have sketched, of loading both parties with a considerable risk in the conduct of the business—of making each act at his peril, might be arranged without much difficulty, and check the desertion of our seamen, while it secured the American traders from vexatious detention.'

We presume however, that no terms as favourable as the above plan implies, will be obtained, as even under the administration of Mr. Fox, the two projects which follow were both rejected by the British government.

PROJECT.

'In order to prevent the vessels of either party from becoming a sanctuary at sea for deserters from the vessels of the other party, it is expressly stipulated by the high contracting parties, that they will respectively enact laws, whereby it shall be made penal for the commanders or masters of the vessels of either of the parties, who may happen to be in the ports of some third power, or in the ports of one of the parties with the vessels of the other party, to receive on board and carry to sea [knowing them to be such] the sailors belonging to, and deserting from such vessels. It is further agreed, whenever the vessels having on board the sailors who may have so deserted in a neutral port,

shall arrive at any port of the party to which they belong, that such party shall cause such deserters to be delivered up, on proper application supported by lawful evidence, to the agent or consul of the other party, who may be duly authorised by his government to act in such cases.

COUNTER PROJECT.

Whereas when the one nation is at war, and the other at peace, it is not lawful for the belligerent to impress or carry off from on board the neutral, seafaring persons, who are the native subjects of the neutral, or others who are not the subjects of the belligerent; and whereas from the similarity of the language, and appearance, it may be difficult to distinguish the subjects of the two states, the high contracting parties agree, that for the greater security of the subjects of the neutral, they will enact such laws respectively, as shall subject to heavy penalties the commanders of the belligerent ships, who shall impress or carry off the native subjects of the neutral, or others not being the subjects of the belligerent, from on board the neutral vessel, on any pretence whatsoever. And they further agree to enact laws respectively, making it highly penal in the subjects of the neutral, to grant any certificates of the birth and country of sea faring persons, without due evidence and proof of the same.

There is but little doubt that some plan will be agreed upon which shall render completely secure the *persons of Americans* in American ships, and render a *British deserter* liable to be seized by his government; that the British will not relinquish their right of searching merchant vessels for their own seamen, but that if any excesses result from the practice, the officer offending will be made to repent his temerity.

On the subject of the colonial trade, our rights are more unquestionable; and the misconduct of the British has been more apparent. Their conduct has occasionally been flagrantly unjust, and in our opinion, the principles on which it has been founded, have always been unsound. The following remarks are a fair compendium of the general arguments which govern a decision upon this important topick.

'Both parties are agreed in their general definition of the rights and duties of neutrals: But this is merely a new source of perplexity, since they differ very widely in the meaning they assign to the terms of this admitted definition. In point of right, it is agreed, the neutral should suffer no prejudice from the war, but should be protected in the enjoyment of every privilege which he possessed in his intercourse with either of the belligerents in time of peace, except only when the exercise

of such privilege would interfere with the specifick measures of hostility actually and immediately pursued by the other belligerent. In point of duty, the neutral should refrain from taking any share in the war, and from giving aid or assistance to either party, for offence or defence. So far all parties are agreed; but there is matter enough for contention remaining.

'The author of *War in Disguise* contends, that, by these definitions, neutrals are excluded from the colonial trade of a belligerent; they are only to retain in war what they enjoyed in peace; but as they were entirely excluded from this trade in peace, they can have no claim to any share of it in war upon the footing of mere neutrality. Their rights are sufficiently respected, if they are left during the war in as good a condition as before it began; and they have no cause to complain if a belligerent follows out his own hostile interest, by restraining them from usurping what he has disabled the enemy from retaining. In point of fact, it is added, that this usurpation of a new trade tends directly to aid and assist one of the parties in the war, and to defeat and obstruct the lawful hostilities of the other: it is therefore a clear violation of the duties of neutrality.

'We confess that we cannot agree with any part of this interpretation. The general principle is, that a neutral shall suffer no prejudice from the war, but shall remain in point of right, on the same footing as if peace had never been violated. Now, it was the right of a neutral, in time of peace, to trade with every country in the world, from the sovereign or proprietors of which he had received permission, and to be free from all challenge or interruption from any other party. That right and that freedom, however, is utterly destroyed in time of war, if a belligerent may interfere with his trade to any quarter of the world over which it has no dominion, and with the sovereigns of which it is admitted that the rights of the neutral were to remain as free and as ample as ever. It was his undoubted right, in time of peace, to treat with every other nation for leave to trade with its colonies; and if this right is lost by the war, it is in vain to say that he has not suffered prejudice by that occurrence. It is plain, indeed, that the advocates for the exclusion are sensible of the impossibility of maintaining it on the mere want of right in the neutral, when they proceed to contend, that the trade which they wish to restrain is in substance an interference in the war, and a breach of the duties of neutrality. If this be the case, it ought no doubt to be interdicted upon that footing; but it ought to be clearly understood at the same time, that this is the ground on which it is objected to; and that all that is wanting for its justification, is to show that it does not assist the one belligerent, nor distress the other, in such a way as is inconsistent with the strict duties of neutrality.

Now, upon this head, we are inclined to hold, that the assistance or obstruction to which this description applies, must bear a direct refer-

ence to the hostile efforts of the two belligerents, and that the neutral character will not be violated merely by carrying on a trade with one of them, in such a way as to give him a share of its commercial advantages, while the other is obstructed in nothing but its general desire to impoverish the traders of the enemy. To relieve a place which is blockaded, is a direct interference with a specifick act of hostility, and tends to defeat a scheme of annoyance, which is then in the course of execution. It is therefore interdicted by the law of nations, as an evident transgression of the duties of neutrality. To carry arms or warlike stores, in like manner, to a nation whose means of attack or defence must depend in a great measure on the possession of such articles, has a direct and immediate effect to alter the fortune of the war, and is nearly as palpable an interference in it, as to give or lend to one party a supply of soldiers or sailors. All traffick with a belligerent, in such articles, has accordingly been prohibited; and the right of seizing contraband of war, been recognized from time immemorial. But it has, for as long, been thought lawful for a neutral to trade freely with a belligerent in every other article, and to buy and sell with him upon terms of mutual profit and advantage; nor has it ever been pretended that this trade was illegal, merely because it was a source of emolument to the belligerent as well as to the neutral, and in this way interfered eventually with his enemy's lawful endeavours to bring him to a submission, by cutting off all his resources and means of revenue. In this point of view, however, it is evident that there is no room for distinguishing between the colonial trade of a belligerent and any other trade which may be carried on between him and a neutral. The belligerent has a profit by both, and is thus enabled to carry on the war with undiminished resources, while the enemy's views of impoverishment are obstructed by means of the neutral. It can make no difference to either party, whether the neutral buys wine in the ports of the mother country, or rum in those of her colonies. The assistance which he gives to one belligerent, and the consequent obstruction he occasions to the views of the other, are the same in both cases; and if the one trade be undoubtedly lawful, it will not be easy to shew that the other is not.'

DIGNIFIED RETIREMENT.

IT is amusing to hear our Jacobins prating about the 'heart-felt satisfaction' of 'a LINCOLN' in dignified retirement. What act of Lieutenant Governour Lincoln's whole political career entitles him to the 'approbation of independent citizens?' Is this heart-felt satisfaction to be the result of His Honour's reflec-

tions on the patriotism, the wisdom, and the virtue, which have characterised his six-month's administration? We know of nothing on which his Honour can reflect with more pleasure than the circumstance of his retiring before he had lost the confidence of his own party. He ought to bless the federalists for permitting him to go into his dignified retirement so early: for had he continued in office another year, his folly and ignorance would have made him the scorn of the party who elected him, and the pity of his opponents.

We wish his honour may enjoy all the satisfaction he is entitled to in cultivating his farm, planting turnpike roads with poplars, or any other employment more congenial to his feelings.—We expect shortly, to hear him, after the example of Jefferson, asking the jacobins of Worcester, 'whose ox, or whose ass have I stolen?' and talking of heart felt satisfaction, and the pleasure of a good conscience. He undoubtedly flatters himself that his political vices and his wilful violation of the constitution will be forgotten. Deluded man! He is not beyond the reach of satire.

For when to truth allied, the wound she gives
Sinks deep, and to remotest ages lives.
When in the tomb thy pamper'd flesh shall rot,
And e'en by friends, thy memory be forgot;
Still shalt thou live, recorded for thy crimes,
Live in her page, and stink to after times.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

18 An Address from the Berean Society of Universalists in Boston, to the Congregation of the first Church in Weymouth, in answer to a Sermon Delivered in said Church, March 18, 1808, by their pastor, Rev. Jacob Norton, A. M. entitled, 'The will of God, respecting the Salvation of all men, illustrated.' Boston, Munroe, Francis & Parker.

19 Report of the Committee appointed by the General Assembly of the State of Rhode-Island, and Providence plantations, at the February Session, 1809, to enquire into the situation of the Farmer's Exchange Bank in Gloucester, with the documents accompanying the same. Published by order of the General Assembly.

20 The Pleasures of Reason, or the Hundred Thoughts of a sensible young Lady; to which are added Moral Miscellanies, by R. Gillet. Boston, Lincoln & Edmands and T. Wells.

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ORDEAL.

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POLITICAL.

COLONIAL TRADE.

THE arguments upon the subject of the rule which is to establish some permanent authority to which this country may always appeal in her future commercial transactions with belligerent colonies, will soon be revived, and the old controversies of the year 1806-7, will again be agitated with as much warmth and animation as ever. The interests of Great-Britain have evidently driven her into many contradictions and inconsistencies as to the settlement of this rule, and various doctrines have been laid down and deserted by her, whenever she has considered it necessary to her safety, or the aggrandizement of her power, until it has terminated in the unqualified assertion, that the neutral shall enjoy no commerce in time of war, from which he was debarred in time of peace, on the ground that traffick conducted on more liberal principles would essentially be interfering in the war, or injure one belligerent by assisting the other. We think the fallacy of this doctrine is well exposed in the arguments which follow.

The general principle upon which Great-Britain declares against the legality of this trade, is that it tends to enrich the enemy, and that it was not carried on by the neutral in peace. Now, if this be a sufficient ground of condemnation, it must follow that that every trade is illegal into which a neutral enters with a belligerent for the first time during war; and that it is absolutely unlawful to throw any part of the traffick formerly carried on by the belligerent into neutral hands. In opposition to this maxim, however, it will be easy to shew, that upon the breaking out of a war, neutrals have always been permitted to take up many branches of trade that were formerly in the hands of the belligerents, and that their right to carry them on has never been disputed, upon the ground of the security or profit derived therefrom to the enemy.

There are a variety of branches of trade in which this must occur invariably in every war between two maritime and commercial nations. In the first place there is the trade between the two belligerents themselves.

This, of course, in its direct original state, is altogether destroyed and suspended by the war; but if the nations have a mutual and permanent demand for the products of each other's territory, the traffick will infallibly go on as formerly; and the only difference will be, that the trade which was formerly conducted by the ships and sailors of the belligerents, will now fall wholly into the hands of neutrals. This is in all respects a new trade to the neutral, and an addition to his former trade, arising entirely out of the war. It is productive likewise of profit and emolument to the belligerent, and ought therefore to be condemned as unlawful, according to the doctrine of the writer now under consideration. But this is by no means the only new trade into which neutrals are uniformly admitted without challenge in the course of a maritime war: A very considerable part of the general trade of the belligerents passes naturally into their hands. In time of peace a maritime nation carries a great part of its exports to the foreign purchaser, and brings home in its own vessels a great part of its imports. As soon as it engages in war, however it ceases to be profitable for it to do this; the rates of wages and insurance, are necessarily raised; and even where it maintains the superiority at sea, the risk and the expence of transportation become considerably greater than when the same commodities are embarked in neutral bottoms. Accordingly it inevitably happens, that the neutral purchaser finds it for his advantage to come for those goods which the belligerent used formerly to send out to him in her own ships; and the belligerent finds it more convenient that her imports should be brought into her ports by vessels not liable to capture. In this way, a large part of the hostile commerce is naturally transferred to the hands of neutrals, and that for the very purpose of avoiding the risk of capture by an enemy. It was never pretended, however, we believe upon any side, to condemn this new trade as unlawful. Even in our own ports, it is probable there are now more than double the number of neutral vessels that found business there in time of peace; and in those of France and Spain the number is increased tenfold. They there deliver the produce of their own and other foreign countries, and take on board the commodities of the hostile territory, to distribute in all those markets to which they were formerly carried in a great measure by the ships of the enemy which they have superseded. Yet this new war trade between the neutral and the enemy, we do not so much as pretend to find fault with, or to denounce as beyond the rights of neutrality.

The new neutral trade with the colonies, we conceive, however, is not to be distinguished from this new neutral trade with the home ports of the enemy; and the admitted legality of the one is pretty conclusive, therefore, in favour of the legality of the other also. Neutrals were not, perhaps, excluded from the former, during peace, by any positive laws or prohibitions; but they were excluded, in point of fact, as effectual-

ly, by the disadvantages of their situation, and the natural predilection of the belligerent for his own traders. It is equally certain and undeniable, therefore, as in the case of the colonies, that it was a new trade which they acquired in consequence of the war, and that it is destined to revert to the belligerent as soon as peace shall have removed those disadvantages which now give the preference to the neutral. Now, as these are the very circumstances which are pleaded upon as grounds for excluding neutrals from the colony trade, it is obvious that the plea is effectually answered by referrence to this unchallenged new trade with the mother country. It is to no purpose to say, that the innovation here is only in degree, and that the colonial trade is new in kind to the neutral. This is a distinction altogether irrelevant to the matter in dispute. It is a fact as palpable as the transference of her colonial trade, that the whole home trade of France is now gone into the hands of neutrals. By this arrangement she is benefitted, and her enemies disappointed in their hopes of captures and their views of impoverishment, as effectually at least as by the change in her colonial system. If the one be recognized as legal, it does not appear upon what grounds it is possible to impeach the other as contrary to the law of nations.

These cases of the new home trade between neutrals and belligerents generated by the war, and depending upon it for its continuance, appear to us so exactly parallel to that of the colonial trade in question, that it is not necessary to pursue the investigation any further. It is well known, however, that nothing is more common than to relax special prohibitions in behalf of neutrals, upon the breaking out of a war; and that we ourselves, whose necessities in this way cannot be supposed very urgent, have frequently invited them to a share of our trade, by opening free ports abroad, and reducing duties which had been imposed to secure our monopoly at home. We never heard that the new trade, which was opened to the neutrals by these devices, was considered in any quarter as illegal, or that any attempt was ever made by our enemies to make prize of the vessels employed in it.

It thus appears that there is nothing in the analogy of the law of nations as fixed by the uniform practice of maritime countries, which can justify the condemnation of this war trade between the colonies of a belligerent, and the neutral nations in her neighbourhood. On the contrary it appears that, in cases, which, in point of principle, can scarcely be distinguished from that before us, the long established usage of nations has recognized the legality of such intercourse, and confirmed the free enjoyment of it as one of the most undisputed privilges of neutrality. A very slight consideration of the equitable principles on which the practice has been founded in those analagous and undisputed cases, will satisfy us that the conclusion may be extended with perfect confidence to that which is now in discussion.

The enemy is clearly benefitted by the admission of neutrals to the

home trade which he carried on himself in time of peace; his commerce is relieved from the pressure of our hostilities; he is made in a great measure independent of our naval superiority; we are disappointed in our hope of captures, and obstructed in our lawful endeavours to bring him to terms by cutting off the sources of his revenue. Why should we not be permitted therefore, to prevent this interference of the neutrals? why is it that we are obliged to walk quietly on the decks of our cruizers, and see thousands of Danes and Americans busily employed in a trade which fills the coffers of our enemy, and covering with their flag a commerce, which, but for this interference, would become the prey of our triumphant navy? The answer is short and obvious; and it is decisive, in our apprehension of the whole controversy. We are are restrained from annoying our enemy by interfering with his trade, from a regard to the neutrals for whose joint profit it is carried on, and whose interest in its continuance is more considerable, and more favoured in the eyes of the great confederation of nations, than our interest in its suppression. This is the ultimate and true reason why a belligerent is not permitted to interrupt that neutral trade with his enemy, by which his hostilities are rendered in some degree inefficient.—The question comes, as we have already intimated it would do, to a balance of advantages and disadvantages; and the law of nations has decided in favour of the neutral in all the branches of the home trade. We are not aware that there are any circumstances by which the balance can be affected, or the decision varied, in the trade of the colonies.

POETRY.

THE poetry of Darwin for a long time attained a degree of celebrity far beyond its merits; and the same taste which ten years ago was so ready to extol and admire it, seems again revived, and Dr. Darwin's works are now frequently quoted, and his language and ingenuity extolled. The Loves of the Triangles, which was written with the professed intention of exposing the absurdities of the Botanick Garden, or Loves of the Plants, renders the design and manner of the Doctor in that work, most eminently ridiculous. To those persons who are inclined to enjoy the scientifick part, which is attempted to be ridiculed, we must recommend the whole poem with notes, in the Anti-Jacobin, but we now take the liberty to extract a few passages in which the glowing style of Darwin in describing scientifick and classical events, is finely satirized. Persons who are in the least acquainted with his style, will acknowledge the resemblance at the first view. It is a caricature, but though the lines are marked very strongly, they do not deviate

from the character they are intended to pourtray. Take the following as a specimen.

LO! where the chimney's sooty tube ascends,
The fair TROCHAIS* from the corner bends!
Her coal-black eyes upturn'd, incessant mark
The eddying smoke, quick flame, and volant spark;
Mark with quick ken, where flashing in between
Her much lov'd *Smoke-Jack* glimmers through the scene;
Mark how his various parts together tend,
Point to one purpose—in one object end:
The spiral *grooves* in smooth meanders flow,
Drags the long *chain*, the polish'd axles glow,
While slowly circumvolves the piece of Beef below:
The conscious fire† with bickering radiance burns,
Eyes the rich joint, and roasts it as it turns.

So youthful HORNER roll'd the roguish eye,
Cull'd the dark plum from out his Christmas pye,
And cried, in self-applause—'How good a boy am I.'

So, the sad victim of domestick spite,
Fair CINDERELLA, past the wintry night,
In the lone chimney's darksome nook immured,
Her form disfigured, and her charms obscured.
Sudden her God-mother, appears in sight,
Lifts the charm'd rod, and chaunts the Mystick Rite;
The chaunted Rite the maid attentive hears,
And feels new ear-rings deck her listening ears;‡

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* *Trochais*—The Nymph of the Wheel, supposed to be in love with SMOKE-JACK.

† *The conscious fire*—The Sylphs and Genii of the different Elements have a variety of innocent occupations assigned them; those of FIRE are supposed to divert themselves with writing the name of KUNKEL in Phosphorus. See ECONOMY of VEGETATION.

'Or mark with shining letters KUNKEL's name
'In the slow *Phosphor's* self-consuming flame.'

‡ *Listening ears.*—Listening, and therefore peculiarly suited to a pair of diamond ear-rings. See the description of NEBUCHADNEZAR, in his transformed state.

Nor Flattery's self can pierce his *pendant ears.*

In poetical diction, a person is said to '*breathe the* BLUE *air*,' and to '*drink the* HOARSE *wave*!'—not that the colour of the sky, or the noise of the water has any reference to drinking or breathing, but because the poet obtains the advantage of thus describing his subject under a *double relation*, in the same manner in which material objects present themselves to our different senses at the same time.

Whilst 'midst her towering tresses, aptly set,
Shines bright with quivering glance, the smart Aigrette;
Brocaded silks the splendid dress complete,
And the Glass Slipper grasps her fairy feet.
Six cock-tail'd Mice* transport her to the Ball,
And liveried Lizards wait upon her call.

So thy dark Arches, LONDON *Bridge*, bestride
Indignant Thames, and part his angry tide.
There oft,—returning from those green retreats,
Where fair *Vauxhalia* decks her sylvan seats;—
Where each spruce Nymph, from City Compters free,
Sips the froth'd Syllabub, or fragrant Tea;
While with slic'd Ham, scrap'd Beef, and burnt Champagne,
Her 'prentice Lover soothes his amorous pain;—
There oft, in well trimm'd wherry, glide along
Smart beaux and giggling bells, a glittering throng;
Smells the tar'd rope—with undulation fine
Flaps the loose sail—the silken awnings shine;
'Shoot me the Bridge!'—the vent'rous Boatmen cry;
'Shoot me the Bridge!'—the exulting Fare† reply.
Down the steep fall the headlong waters go,
Curls the white foam, the breakers roar below.
The veering helm the dextrous steersman stops,
Shifts the thin oar, the fluttering canvas drops;

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* *Cocktail'd Mice*—COCTILIBUS MURIS. *Ovid.*—There is reason to believe that the *murine*, or *mouse* species were anciently much more numerous than at the present day. It appears from the sequel of the Line, that SEMIRAMIS surrounded the *City of Babylon* with a number of these animals.

Dicitur altam
COCTILIBUS MURIS *cinxisse Semiramis Urbem.*

It is not easy at present to form any conjecture with respect to the end, whether of ornament or of defence, which they could be supposed to answer. I should be inclined to believe, that in this instance the mice were dead, and that so vast a collection of them must have been furnished by way of tribute, to free the country of these destructive animals. This superabundance of the *murine* race, must have been owing to their immense fecundity, and to the comparatively tardy reproduction of the *Feline* species. The traces of this disproportion are to be found in the early History of every Country. The ancient Laws of *Wales* estimate a CAT at the price of as much corn as would be sufficient to cover her, if she were suspended by the tail with her fore feet touching the ground.—See HOWEL DHA.—In Germany it is recorded that an army of Rats, a larger animal of the *Mus* tribe, were employed as the Ministers of Divine Vengeance against a Feudal Tyrant; and the Commercial Legend of our own WHITTINGTON, might probably be traced to an equally authentick origin.

† *Fare.*—A person, or a number of persons, conveyed in a hired vehicle by land or water.

Then with clos'd eyes, clench'd hands, and quick-drawn breath,
Darts at the central arch, nor heeds the gulf beneath.
Full 'gainst the pier the unsteady timbers knock,
The loose planks starting own the impetuous shock;
The shifted oar, dropt sail, and steadied helm,
With angry surge the closing waters whelm—
Laughs the glad Thames and clasps each fair one's charms
That screams and scrabbles in his oozy arms.
Drench'd each smart garb, and clogg'd each struggling limb,
Far o'er the stream the Cocknies sink or swim;
While each badg'd boatman,* clinging to his oar,
Bounds o'er the buoyant wave, and climes the applauding shore.

So, towering Alp![†] from thy majestick ridge
Young Freedom gaz'd on Lodi's blood-stain'd *Bridge;*
Saw, in thick throngs conflicting Armies rush,
Ranks close on ranks and squadrons squadrons crush;
Burst in bright radiance through the battle's storm,
Wav'd her broad hands, display'd her awful form;
Bade at her feet regenerate nations bow,
And twin'd the wreath round Bonaparte's brow.
Quick with new lights, fresh hopes, and alter'd zeal,
The slaves of despots dropp'd the blunted steel,
Exulting Victory own'd her favourite child,
And freed Liguria clapp'd her hands and smiled.

The expected invasion of England was a subject which at that time agitated all classes of the community. Good politicians saw in such an attempt by France, its inevitable failure, and by almost a necessary consequence, the brighter glory of Great-Britain, and the general safety of the continent of Europe. It therefore became a subject of ridicule to the wits of the kingdom, whilst the ministry found it for their interest to keep up the alarm; it is unfortunate, that the coalition on the continent, which so materially changed the aspect of affairs, had ever been formed, since nothing could be imagined so advantageous to the general cause, as the probable issue of the invasion.

Nor long the time ere Britain's shores shall greet
The warrior sage, with gratulation sweet;

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* *Badg'd Boatmen.*—Boatmen sometimes wear a *badge*, to distinguish them; especially those who belong to the Watermen's Company.

† *Alp* or *Alps.*—A ridge of mountains which separate the north of Italy from the south of Germany. They are evidently primeval and volcanick, consisting of granite, loadstone, and basalt, and several other substances, containing animal and vegetable recrements, and affording numberless undoubted proofs of the infinite antiquity of the earth, and of the consequent falsehood of the Mosaick Chronology.

Eager to grasp the wreath of Naval Fame,
The Great Republick plans the *Floating Frame!*
O'er the huge plane, gigantick Terror stalks,
And counts with joy the close compacted balks:
Of young-ey'd Massacres the Cherub crew,
Round their grim chief the mimick task pursue;
Turn the stiff screw,* apply the strengthening clamp,
Drive the long bolt, or fix the stubborn cramp,
Lash the reluctant beam, the cable splice,
Join the firm dove-tail with adjustment nice,
Through yawning fissures urge the willing wedge,
Or give the smoothing adze a sharper edge.
Or group'd in Fairy bands, with playful care,
The unconscious bullet to the furnace bear;
Or gaily tittering, tip the match with fire,
Prime the big mortar, bid the shell aspire;
Appland, with tiny hands, and laughing eyes,
And watch the bright destruction as it flies.

Now the fierce forges gleam with angry glare—
The wind-mill† waves his woven wings in air;
Swells the proud sail, the exulting streamers fly,
Their nimble fins unnumber'd paddles ply:
Ye soft airs breathe, ye gentle billows waft,
And, fraught with Freedom bear the expected Raft!

GENERAL WILKINSON,

THE commander of the armies of the United States, has been for some time, placed in a most odious situation; the publick hate and detest, and have hitherto imbibed no other sensation in

* *Turn the stiff screw.*—The harmony and imagery of these lines are imperfectly imitated from the following exquisite passage in the Economy of Vegetation.

Gnomes, as you now dissect, with hammers fine,
The Granite Rock, the nodul'd Flint calcine;
Grind with strong arm, the circling Chertz betwixt,
Your pure Ka—o—lins and Pe—tunt—ses mixt.
CANTO 2D. L. 297.

† *The wind-mill.*—This line affords a striking instance of the sound conveying an echo to the sense. I would defy the most unfeeling reader to repeat it over, without accompanying it by some corresponding gesture, imitative of the action described.—EDITOR.

regard to him. That so much ignorance, vanity, and pomposity, should be combined with so much sycophancy, tyranny, and oppressive intolerance, would produce emotions of the most determined disgust, was natural; and not having any great or agreeable quality about him to relieve the picture, it was natural that the publick should generally shudder at the idea of supporting a man at the head of the armies of the United States, so generally detestable in his character. But where they formerly hated, they now despise, he now is placed upon a pedestal before the publick with the blister of cowardice festering upon his forehead. How long such a blustering bully, such a sycophant of power, such a tyrannical master, such a bag of bad wind, will be suffered to offend the publick, by his conduct, we hope may soon be determined. We feel for the honour of the United States, for the reputation of the army, and for the feelings of those who may be placed immediately under him, when General Adair comes publickly forward with a yet uncontradicted and unrestrained epithet. Wilkinson may yet clear up his character in this odious particular, and it will then rest with the community 'to despise him somewhat less than they do at present.' But until this is done it is certainly not doubtful that government should scrupulously avoid giving him employment, and if he cannot be removed without resorting to a court-martial, he yet may only hold a nominal rank, and some worthy, brave, and intelligent officer fill the station with honour, which has so long been most shamefully disgraced. The following conclusion to General Adair's communication to the publick, will afford a specimen of the contemptuous style in which the commander of the United States armies has been treated.

'Low and contemptible as this man has stood for some time past in the opinion of his countrymen, as well as myself, I would not have stooped to invite him to a meeting had it not been that he is still permitted to wear the coat of a soldier and wield the sword of my country. Nor would I have believed that he could have been stimulated to meet a call of honour from any man, had it not been for his late vapouring and blustering as a duellist in the Atlantick states, added to his own declaration to that effect. I have now done with him in this way, firmly believing that he is a COWARD, and that to apply any other weapon of

chastisement to him more formidable than a horsewhip, would but disgrace the arm making the application.

JOHN ADAIR.'

If a man in Wilkinson's situation can sustain this shock upon his character, and from a general too, it will be time to resort to some other tribunal than publick opinion to determine the value of a soldier's reputation.

MR. J. RANDOLPH.

Mr. John Randolph has commenced his career of this session of Congress with some most violent and justly deserved philippicks against the last administration. He offers the meed of praise to Mr. Madison for so accommodating our differences with Great-Britain, as to restore our commercial intercourse. This is all very praise-worthy. But Mr. Randolph relies too much on the individual supremacy of his talents, ever to have great influence in a deliberative assembly. He never acts in concert with any party, he is a friend on one day and an adversary on the next: the consequence must inevitably be, that he will never find the doors of honour and confidence opened to his entrance. Mr. Randolph obtained some celebrity in Great-Britain, by his determined and powerful opposition to our ridiculous non-importation laws. Mr. Stephens, the celebrated author of that eloquent, though fallacious work, of 'War in Disguise,' undertook to publish one of his speeches with comments; the Edinburgh Reviewers have also noticed him, and their notice is a passport to distinction. Mr. Randolph seems too conscious of the fame and celebrity, which accident rather than very great powers has gained for him, and presuming upon this extrinsically excited reputation, he appears to act for himself alone, without seeming willing to be considered as belonging to either of the parties into which the country is divided. Both claim him, but in reality, he is not the smallest service to either. What he erects for the federalists to-day, he overturns to-morrow; though we have understood whatever personal attachments he entertains, are generally on the federal side. This notice is given here, to shew that too much reliance ought not to be placed on the weight of Mr. Randolph in our favour, and that not the small-

est disadvantage would result to us if he were hanging upon the opposite side of the balance; he is too buoyant to cause it to preponderate.

GOVERNOUR GORE.

The circumstances of honour attending the initiation of his excellency to his new office, must have been highly gratifying to his feelings both as a man and a patriot.

The talents of Mr. Gore, are displayed in his first speech, which whilst it is conciliatory in manner and sentiment, maintains with equal ability, propriety and dignity, the necessity of proposing some expedient by which the commerce of the country may be hereafter exempt from the recurrence of similar dangers to those which it experienced during the last year. He maintains the propriety of the legal opposition of Massachusetts, at that time, to the embargo law, unconstitutional in its provisions, and proved utterly ridiculous in fact, from the necessity of its sudden repeal. If the non-intercourse law has been the instrument which has occasioned all the advantages which the nation now experiences, the opposition of the Massachusetts legislature to the embargo laws last year should not surely be condemned, since congress in consequence of that opposition, stumbled upon a measure which has turned out accidentally to be thus favourable in our negociations.

The praise bestowed by his excellency upon Mr. Madison is certainly well deserved, and we hope it is only the commencement of the harvest of reputation which the president will gather from his country, for his deviations from the path of policy pursued by his predecessor in office.

'I trust gentlemen,' he remarks, 'that we may sincerely and heartily congratulate each other, and every individual in our country, that the political year commences with the promise of reviving commerce, and the restoration of our citizens to the exercise of their faculties, and their industry, and to the right of acquiring and possessing property, asserted in our declaration of rights to be essential and unalienable. We have great reason to indulge the hope of realizing these views, from the prompt and amicable disposition, with which, it is understood, the present federal administration met the conciliatory overtures of Great-

Britain: a disposition which is entitled to, and will certainly receive the hearty approbation of every one, who sincerely loves the peace and prosperity of the nation.

'While we sincerely rejoice at the prospect laid open to the United States of returning prosperity and plenty, this commonwealth has great reason for self gratulation, on the patience and firmness displayed by her citizens under privations the most painful, and restrictions the most irreconcilable to the spirit of freemen. While the acts, enforcing these privations and restrictions, were submitted to by individuals, with a resignation, that evinced the most exemplary love of order, and respect for the constituted authorities of the nation, the wisdom and temperate firmness displayed by the Commonwealth, in their Legislature, their persevering attachment to the union, their correct estimate of their own rights, and the prudent and constitutional measures for their relief must always redound to its highest honour.'

The observations on the treasury department prove Mr. Gore to have properly considered the importance of the trust he has assumed, and the judicious expedient he has proposed as a check upon future treasurers, is an evidence of the practical talents of his excellency, in the fiscal operations of the state.

'We are,' says he, 'seriously admonished by the circumstances in which the treasury was left by the predecessor of the present Treasurer, that the checks contained in the system were not sufficient to secure the community against unfaithfulness in an officer. Several other states, prior to the revolution, suffered frequent losses by a defect in this department of their government. In altering their state constitutions they thought to remedy the evil, by assigning the appointment of their Treasurer to the Legislature; the result has shown this remedy not to be effectual, and in several instances, they have altered their system, by adding to the officers entrusted with the care of the revenue, one, in the character of comptroller.

'Should the Legislature turn their attention, to the providing further security in this department, this mode may not be altogether unworthy their notice.

'The regulations of such an office might operate as checks on the Treasurer, by rendering the Comptroller's sanction necessary to a settlement of all accounts, to the payment, and receipts of all monies, to, or by the Treasurer, and to drawing the same from

the Bank, where by law it is kept. A system that should afford in the Comptroller's office, a particular account with each of the debtors and creditors of the state, and also an exact account with the treasurer, which would at all times, exhibit precisely the balance of his account, might be found to contain greater security against misapplication of the publick money, than that under which our pecuniary concerns have been managed.'

The course of remark which his excellency pursues in regard to party spirit, and personal animosity we should imagine would cause the Patriot and Chronicle newspapers to blush for the base innuendoes, the foul insinuations and the false conclusions with which even *their* columns have been disgraced. Let the editors of those papers read the following paragraph, and then let them asperse Mr. Gore and charge him again with being in British pay or British interest, if they have sufficient audacity.

'To adopt a rule, that no man is to be selected for office, unless he be of the particular sect, or party of those, who administer the government, or subscribe to their political creed, is to establish a principle, not only not recognized by, but directly repugnant to the constitution. It is moreover highly unjust to the people, as it narrows the choice for office, and may frequently exclude from their service, the purest integrity, the highest capacities, and best dispositions. It is considering government as instituted not for the *common good*, but for the exclusive advantage of an association or party of men.'

REVIEW OF AMES's WORKS.

A Series of numbers have appeared in the Patriot newspaper, which are entitled 'a Review of the Works of Fisher Ames;' but instead of candid controversy on principles and sentiments, we are amused with party insinuations and personal allusions, instead of a Review of Mr. Ames' works, it is an appeal from his writings, his personal views and feelings. Views and feelings, however, for which his life, and not his writings are supposed to furnish an authority; but views and feelings which neither his life nor writings can afford any justification to the author of the review in assuming as facts. When the numbers are closed, it may be deemed proper to expose the probable motives of the au-

thor of them, the fallacy of the arguments, and virulence of the insinuations he employs to effect the object which he secretly expects to accomplish.

SILVA.

In the fourteenth number of the Ordeal, we took occasion to ridicule the silliness and insipidity with which the department of Silva, in the Monthly Anthology, is so frequently demeaned. These peculiarities are the more remarkable, since it is understood that the department in which they are found is filled every month by the society of gentlemen who superintend the whole work, and who really have frequently displayed much elegant literature, and much acuteness of remark, in the conduct of it. Whether this literary society ought or ought not to farther the pigmean and ricketty brats which scramble about in the Silva, the ridicule which they excite will not be diminished from any such adventitious considerations. A society of literary men imposes upon the mind; but even such authority cannot impose the following nonsense upon the world, for either wit, learning, or important information.

A LONG INVITATION.

"Mr. Bourgoin, French Minister in Portugal, was removed to Hamburg. On his arrival there he found an invitation to a dinner in Lisbon, which he had forgotten to answer, but he had time to write by post, that it was out of his power to accept it."

It may, to be sure, be very important to the world that Mr. Bourgoin was invited to dinner in Lisbon, and more extraordinary that he could not dine in that city, when he happened to be in Hamburgh; but the importance resulting from these circumstances sink into mere insignificance, when compared with the wit of the next anecdote; which is equally witty and *true*.

LEDYARD.

"This celebrated traveller, who was a citizen of Connecticut, was sent by Capt. Cook to explore a river on the coast of Kamschatka. He embarked in a canoe with only three companions.

These were the Bible, Ovid's Metamorphoses, and a bottle of brandy."

Those of our readers who have been impressed with the wonders, which these sapient paragraphs record, will find their sensations not diminished on perusing the next specimen of profundity.

A PRUDENT MAGISTRATE.

'A vessel arrived at a port in Portugal from Marseilles. A strict quarantine was imposed on all vessels coming from the Levant, on account of the plague. The *diembargador* ordered the ship into quarantine. 'But sir, I come from Marseilles.' 'Well, that is in the Levant; you must go into quarantine.' 'Why, sir, only look at the map. I will show you that it is not.' The map was produced; the captain pointed at Marseilles, and then shewed him what was called the Levant. The judge, placing his thumb on Marseilles and then stretching his fore-finger to the Levant, exclaimed, 'Poh! Poh! They are close together, it is all the same thing; you must perform quarantine.'

The two following paragraphs, and particularly the query at the conclusion of the second, deserve to be connected with the wisdom which has preceded them.

DIPLOMATICK CAUTION.

'During the time that the Marquis de Pombal governed Portugal, he was much surprised at receiving no despatches from his minister in Sweden, though he had often written to him. At length, sending a courier to St. Petersburg, he ordered him to go to Stockholm, to enquire the reason of the minister. The ambassadour was much surprised, said that he had written regularly once a week; he went in consequence with the courier to the post office, to know why they had not been forwarded. The postmaster knew nothing about it, but said he always sent forward all letters. He told them, however he had a number of letters which he had not been able to forward, because he could not discover the direction. Taking them into another room, he shewed the packets, which proved to be the ambassador's, and which for greater security were *directed* as well as written *in cyphers*.'

PHILIP IV.

A man was brought before Philip IVth. of Spain, accused of having slandered his majesty. It was a man whom the king had never known or had any connection with: 'Let him be dis-

missed,' said Philip, 'he must be a madman; no one in his senses would speak ill of a *king* who had done him no injury.

Query. How many mad men would that monarch have found in the United States?'

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

21 Memoir concerning the Commercial Relations of the United States, with England. By Citizen Talleyrand. To which is added, An Essay upon the advantages to be derived from New Colonies, in the existing circumstances. By the same author. Boston, T. B. Wait, & Co.

22 An Essay on the History of Civil Society. By Adam Ferguson, LL. D. Boston, Hastings, Etheridge & Bliss.

23 A Discourse delivered before the Lieutenant Governour, the Council, and the Houses composing the Legislature of Massachusetts, on the day of the General Election, May 31, 1809. Boston, Russel & Cutler.

24 An Address delivered before the Massachusetts Charitable Fire Society, June 2, 1809. By Alexander Townsend, Esq. Boston, Russel & Cutler.

25 Solemn Reasons for declining to adopt the Baptist Theory and Practice, in a series of letters to a Baptist Minister. By Noah Worcester, A. M. Pastor of a Church in Thornton.

26 The New Testament, in an improved version, upon the basis of Archbishop's Newcome's new translation, with a corrected text, and notes critical and explanatory. Published by a society for promoting christian knowledge and the practice of virtue, by the distribution of books. From the London edition. Boston, W. Wells. 1809.

27 A vindication of a discourse on the death of Doctor Priestly, in reply to the Rev. John Pye Smith, in letters to a friend. By Thomas Belsham. To which is annexed the discourse on the death of Dr. Priestly. By the same author. Boston, J. Cushing.

28 The Military Instructor, or New System of European Exercise and Drill, as now practised by the British army, according to General Dundas; and comparative notes between the same, and the Regulations for the Militia of the United States, according to the System of Baron Steuben; clearly demonstrating the superiority of the former over the latter, and the facility with which it can be obtained. In three Parts. Recommended for the adoption of the Militia of the United States. By E. Gillispy. Boston, J. Cushing.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 24.] SATURDAY, JUNE 17, 1809. [Vol. 1.

" Yet not unconscious of this awful age,
I mark what new conflicting systems rage,
Systems which laugh to scorn th' avenging rod,
And hurl defiance to the throne of God;
Shake pestilence abroad with madd'ning sweep,
And grant no pause, but everlasting sleep."

MANNERS AND CHARACTERS OF THE AGE.

THAT the people of the United States, or at least a considerable portion of them, have a tendency constantly to complain of every thing like the coercion of salutary laws, every thing which appears like regular government, will not be denied by any extensive and acute observer of the state of society in the country. It is a kind of democratick impulse which requires restraint; an embryo licentiousness of political feeling, which may germinate into civil riot and confusion. The following observations from an European work will serve to place the cause of such a disposition among a people upon a right basis.

'I am very ready to admit, that our improvements in civilization and literature have, in many respects, produced an advantageous effect upon our manners. We are certainly entitled to say from experience, '*ingenuas didicisse fideliter artes, emollit mores, nec sinit esse feros.*' But if we take a comprehensive view of the subject, and poise the scales with impartiality, I believe that we shall find no cause to felicitate ourselves upon a comparison of the present with the former times. I fear, that upon such a comparison, the age in which we live will appear to be distinguished by a great and alarming increase of infidelity, and by a growing profligacy of manners, particularly evidenced by the most frequent, flagrant, and aggravated violations of the nuptial tie. Nay, when we observe the loose and indecent attire, in which our half-dressed females present themselves, without a blush, to the publick eye, it is impossible not to conclude that

shame, the last barrier of virtue, is taking its leave even of that part of the fair sex, who would scorn any imputation on their character. But, in another point of view, the present times exhibit a still more unfavourable and alarming aspect.

'I am not conscious of a cynical disposition; but I must confess, that according to my observations, the character of the age is a mental indifference and apathy—and insensibility of disposition—a selfishness of so narrow and contracted a kind, as to defeat its own purposes—an absence of shame—a contempt for opinion—a disregard to appearances, to events, and to consequences. It seems to me that the human mind is becoming callous, and approaching to a state of torpor. This dreadful change may in a great degree be attributed to a long series of prosperity —to habits of ease and indulgence, as well as of luxury and dissipation—to the facility with which not only the necessaries, but the comforts of life may be obtained. The vigour both of mind and body depends upon exertion; and both become debilitated in proportion as their powers are suffered to lie dormant. The great improvements which mankind have made in commerce, agriculture, and arts, enable them to acquire the means of subsistence at a much less expence of labour, than heretofore was necessary for the same purpose; and every class of society is in the possession of enjoyments, which were formerly confined to those of a superiour station. Hence it is, that those habits of industry, economy, and self-denial, which are calculated to infuse vigour into the mind are considerably weakened, and the langour and love of ease, which have succeeded to activity and diligence, have produced habits of life, which are calculated by a kind of reaction, to increase the cause from which they proceed. Among those habits, may be reckoned that new arrangement of time, which excludes the invigorating influence of early rising and early rest, and which obliges us, that we may be able to drag through our business, to delay our meals until the stomach has almost lost its powers of converting them into the means of nourishment and strength. The consequence of all this appears to be but a change of vices—a change, in my opinion, much for the worse—a change analagous to that which takes place in the human body, when, instead of the raging fever, which indicates a vigorous constitution, the deadening palsy exhibits a melancholy proof of the decay of the animal power.

'To this alteration in the character of the age, may be ascribed the alarming progress, and indeed the existence of Jacobinism, which, as naturally proceeds from such a cause, as contagion from putrefaction. What else could have engendered such characters as the modern Philosopher and the cold hearted Jacobin, who, without a feeling of repugnance, or an emotion of pity, can continue and accomplish the destruction of the whole human race? What else could have produced a system of such boundless mischief, as that which has for its object the overthrow of all the political and religious establishments of the earth—of the social order of the whole world. The obvious want of spirit and energy to defend those establishments could alone have afforded occasion to so flagitious a project Such a design would, probably, never have been conceived, if the human mind had been in its full vigour. But certainly it would never, in that case, have been attended with such success as we have now occasion to deplore.

'But, perhaps, it may be asked, do not the conception of so daring a project, and the energy with which it has been pursued, abundantly refute my hypothesis of the mental apathy of the age? I answer, that these circumstances only prove the proneness of human nature to what is evil. The soil, from which labour alone can derive a rich harvest of nutritious grain, will spontaneously produce, in great abundance, the rank and noxious weed. And at all times the smooth and flowery descents of vice have presented an easy and tempting passage to those who have wanted resolution and vigour to ascend the craggy steeps of virtue. But the infernal system of jacobinism is so contrived as to call into action every corrupt and criminal propensity, and even every foible and weakness of human nature. It not only holds out a gratification to every species of vice, publick and private, but it can assume the semblance of virtue, in order to cajole those who are conscious of no other wish than to promote the happiness of their fellow creatures; but who, for want of sound and sober judgment, and by their credit for good characters and good intentions, are easily rendered the greatest foes to that happiness. It can enlist in its service the mad speculatist and the fanatical reformer, as well as the most dissolute of mankind. It can address itself to every description of persons. It flatters the young with an early independence—the

vain with consequence—the ambitious with power—the restless and discontented with a change—the vicious with an indulgence of their passions—the inferiour orders of society with an equalization of rank and property, and every one with a removal of those restraints which he finds most irksome and grievous. No wonder then that this insidious and active principle, combining into one action, and directing to one end, the endeavours of all, who, from whatever motive, are dissatisfied with the subsisting order of things, and favoured by a relaxation of every religious and moral principle, by a licentiousness of manners, and by a listlessness and lukewarmness on the part of its opponents—no wonder then, I say, that this principle of jacobinism should have made so alarming a progress toward the overthrow of every social institution. On the contrary if the well disposed part of mankind do not instantly rouse themselves to a sense of their danger—if they do not open their eyes on the gulf which is before them, and (laying aside that pernicious moderation, candour and liberality, which have fostered the mischief into its present magnitude), if they do not call forth all their powers to avert the impending ruin—the only wonder will be, if in a very short space of time, they do not see the whole earth become one vast theatre of anarchy, carnage and desolation—one universal exhibition of those tragical scenes, of which the French revolution has been but the rehearsal, and which will terminate in the subjection of the miserable and spirit-broken survivors of the human race, to the merciless domination of the vilest of the species.—Indeed, when I think of the astonishing unconcern with which mankind contemplate the tremendous example of France, and of every country where either French arms or the French principles have gained an ascendancy, I cannot help giving way to an apprehension that such infatuation is the result of supernatural influence, and that it has been decreed by Providence, for the benefit of posterity, to make the example more complete, and to warn future ages, at the expence of the present race of men, against the adoption of those principles, which, under the imposing names of Philosophy, Philanthropy and Freedom, attack the very foundations of society, by inspiring a contempt for all authority, human and divine. Heaven grant that this melancholy apprehension may be unfounded! At all events, it is our duty to exert our utmost endeavours to counteract the growing mis-

chief; and for my part, I am determined in case of the worst, not to have my portion of the general woe aggravated by the reproaches of my own conscience, but to secure to myself the consolatory reflection of having omitted nothing, within the scope of my humble powers, to avert so shocking a catastrophe.'

MILITARY DISCIPLINE.

THE determined perseverance of the American nation in the old system of military tacticks, which was practiced upon during the revolutionary war, would have a greater tendency to subvert the liberties of this country, on the supposition of an invasion by a foreign force, than perhaps any other defect in our system which can be imagined. Even our volunteers, at the best, are no better than men of lath; they are undoubtedly dressed in very smart uniforms, and perhaps their manœuvres are performed with considerable accuracy and adroitness. But they are not only radically defective in all the general principles of the system of modern tacticks, which has been introduced since the French revolution, but they seem essentially to depend upon mere excellence in show and outward forms, without possessing any quality which renders a soldier powerful in the field.

'It is easy for a person to fancy himself a soldier, by scrupulously attending, during peace, to those *minutiæ* which are really insignificant in war; and it has been generally observed, that officers who make the most distinguished figure in time of peace, do not, in actual service, answer the expectations which they have raised. 'An officer of this class, who having served twenty or thirty years, has great difficulty in changing his pacifick habits: he hates war: and where there is a want of taste for an undertaking, it must be badly executed.' Nothing can appear more astonishing to those who have not reflected upon it, than the extreme zeal which many officers of that description show for the subordinate *minutiæ* of parade. It is however the case with this, as with most other frivolous pursuits, that where they occupy the mind, they engross it more exclusively than those objects which require a higher exertion of the understanding. A collector of butterflies or tulips shows more zeal in his favourite studies, than a mathematician; and a mountebank

quack-doctor annexes higher importance to his infallible prescriptions than a regular physician. Officers who have been long accustomed to actual service, are fully aware of the relative importance of the subordinate parts of discipline; but it is not easy to describe the absurd importance which parade officers, who have never heard a gun fired upon service, ascribe to the smallest *minutiæ* of dress. It appears to them of greater consequence to have their troops smart upon parade, than active in their manœuvres; and they seem to think that nothing renders a soldier so fit to meet an enemy, as fixing his cap upon one corner of his head, and exposing as much of it as they possibly can, bedaubed with soap and flour, to the wet and cold of a northern climate. No doubt, those officers must be very unfit to meet an enemy, who will not stay to examine whether the accoutrements of their men are well lackered, or their *queues* tied with singular regularity and precision. The height to which this attention to dress is raised in some individuals, exceeds all bounds of belief. We have heard an anecdote of a general officer (in what service we forbear to mention) who went with some of his friends to see the Consular troops reviewed at Paris. After inspecting the lines very narrowly, he was observed to return to his countrymen with a look of great satisfaction and importance. One of them who was anxious to know the result of his observations, was at length informed, 'that he could assure him as a military man, that after looking at the whole line, he had not been able to find two neckcloths together, tied in the same manner.'* This was a very moderate instance of the disposition above alluded to: many more striking ones are well known.'

* A certain degree of attention to the clothing and equipment of troops is necessary; and even an excess of it may appear a very harmless foible.—It would certainly be so, if it did not convert what ought to be a secondary object, into a principal one. When it is proposed to form the soldier for the different kinds of service which may be required, and to accustom him to such exercises as will inure him to fatigue, it is said that he is already sufficiently employed. This objection has long ago been answered by Guibert. 'Si l'on me dit,' says that enlightened author, 'que nos exerceses actuels les occupent déjà assez, je réqondrei que c'est parce que nos manœuvres sont trop compliquées, nos méthodes d'instruction mal entendues, notre prétention de précision et de perfection sur beaucoup de points, minutieuse et ridicule. Je répondrai que la preuve que nos soldats ne sont pas assez occupés, c'est que pour remplir, dit-on, leur temps, on les surcharge de régles de discipline, inquiétantes et odieuses. C'est qu'on a créé une tenue qui leur fait passer trois heures par jour à leur toilette, qui en fait des perruquiers, des polisseurs, des vernisseurs, tout en un mot, hormis des gens de gurre.'—*Essai General de Tactique.*

SILVA—No. 52.

Anticipated from the Monthly Anthology for June 1809.

"If I indulge myself in a smile at such trifling follies, must I of necessity be an envious and malicious tempered man?"

A WITTY ANSWER TO A CIVIL INVITATION.

Mr. ****, a celebrated gamester, was suddenly removed from the billiard table to the county gaol. On his arrival there he found in his pocket an invitation to sup the next evening at Julien's, with a whist party, which he would gladly have accepted; he however requested the officer who attended him to present his compliments to his friends and tell them that as he had received another invitation, *in the name of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*, it was out of his power to accept theirs.

MISS ANN THOLOGY.

This celebrated literary female, who was born under the rigorous climate of the metropolis of New-England, in 1804, was deserted by her only parent at the tender age of three months. She was taken up and sent to explore the hidden sources of publick munificence, by three friends, who for several years fed and clothed her gratis. These were Law, Physick and Divinity.

EPITAPH,

On an old lady, of whom, with her husband and son, it was said, that 'they lived in a vinegar bottle all the days of their lives.'

Here lies Goody Purslain who liv'd in a pen,
And brew'd good beer for gentlemen:
The beer turn'd so sour that man could not drink it:
Goody Purslain she died, alas! who would think it?

APOLOGUE.

The Cabbage said to the Potatoe: Look how much handsomer I am than you, how I draw together and consolidate my rich curling leaves and almost vie in size and solidity with the terrestrial globe; you are not fit to share the same garden with those feeble stalks that support only a few useless balls. True said the potatoe, my stalks are not so sturdy as yours, nor my leaves so rough and large; but I am not the less beloved by the farmers: they call me by many names, and all expressive of my utility; sometimes Spanish White, and Irish beef, and Carolina, and Rusty-coat, and Blue-nose. I am planted early in May, and in one small hillock, do not cease to propagate and multiply till I am dug

up and housed in November. I see almost all our fellows gathered in before me; and when I reflect how much I am beloved, and how much longer I live without the attention of man, than the Turnip, the Beet, and the Onion, I do not envy them the pains bestowed upon their cultivation.

The Cabbage was about to reply, but Betty, with a huge knife, at one stroke, cropped its leaves to boil, and left the headless trunk standing erect, and 'bleaching with the northern blast.'

Said the Kidney-Bean to the Pumpion-vine: Your orange coloured fruit is large and splendid; but you do not tower above the ground; rise like me, to the top of this pole, and your riches and magnificence will be seen. My fruits, said the other, may be less aspiring than yours, but the bosom of the earth is proud to support them.

A WISE MAGISTRATE.

A justice of the peace in Hampshire county, on hearing some years ago that Bonaparte intended to invade England, expressed considerable apprehension for the fate of himself and family, and requested to be told in what part of Massachusetts Old England was situated. 'Why, father, Old England is on the eastern continent, at an immense distance from Massachusetts.' 'Well, all the eastern country, the District and of Maine, is in Massachusetts.' 'Why, sir, only look at the map; I will shew you that it is not.' The map was produced, and the son pointed out Massachusetts and then shewed him the British Isles. The justice placing his thumb on Massachusetts, and stretching his fore finger to Great-Britain, exclaimed, 'Well, well, I see that it is not in Massachusetts, but they are so close together, that Bonaparte's cannon balls can easily reach us.'

MAD MEN.

It was told to a celebrated literary club in the wise city of Gotham, that a certain man had slandered their censorship's work. It was a man whom they had never known, nor had any connection with. 'Let him alone said they, 'he must be a mad man; no one in his senses would speak ill of a *book* that had done him no injury."

Query. How many mad men would those wits have found among the readers of the Monthly Anthology?

The two following articles are not for black-letter dogs, nor prowlers after Greek and Latin. The Silva has thickets and brakes enough for them to wander and scrabble in. They are designed exclusively to affect that part of creation that has so often affected me.

During the time that Thomas Jefferson governed the United States, a young lady of New-Hampshire, whose lover resided in Boston, was

much surprized at receiving no letters from him, though she had often written to him. At length one of her neighbours being destined for Boston with a load of marketing, she requested him to call on the young Adonis, and enquire the reason of his silence. The youth was much surprised, said he had written regularly once a week; he went, in consequence, with the market man to the post-office, to know why they had not been forwarded. The post master knew nothing about it, but said he always sent forward all letters. He told them, however, he had a number of letters, which he had not been able to forward, because he could not discover the direction. Taking them into another room, he showed the packets which proved to be the young lover's, and which for greater security, were directed as well as written in *hieroglyphicks*.

'Cross patch, draw the latch,
Sit by the fire and spin,
Take the cup and drink it up,
Then call your neighbours in.'

Though I do not recollect, and it is perhaps of little moment to know on what particular person the poet bestows such severe sarcasm, I am ready to confess, that the elegance of his satire does not force upon my mind the conclusion which he intended to extort from every reader.—Far from thinking the gibe true, because elegant, I deduce a directly opposite inference; and because it is finished to such brilliant elegance, I am obliged to consider it as extravagant, and therefore false. It is a downright absurdity to say of any woman that she 'takes a cup,' or even to say simply that she is a 'cross patch.' We know, and from their own lips too, that the solitary hours of females are spent either in the most harmless, good natured apathy, or the most exalted devotion. When they are not 'singing to themselves and thinking of nothing,' they are rapt in the most enchanting visions of saints and angels. Nor are the industrious hours of any woman I ever knew so mighty gloomy, for what in the world can charm together such a squad of blue, green, pink, coplico, orange, and white, in short omnicoloured celestials, as the sight of an old maid, or a young one either, when she 'sits by the fire and spins.' And if others are so possessed with the sight, must not the holy light which plays round the spinning wheel of her who is thus employed, be the meridian blaze, the very region and home, the lurking place, the revel room, yea, the very dancing hall of all the celestial spirits aforesaid.

POETRY.

FROM THE ALBUM AT PASSAICK FALLS.

OH solitude ! I love to dwell
Where thou hast spread thy soothing spell ;
Where, far away the village bell,
Breathes on my ear its soften'd swell.

There, in thy enchantment bound,
Let me cultivate the ground ;
Nor cares, nor no discordant sound,
Be in my cottage ever found.

Near some shady mountain's side,
Where the swallows smoothly glide,
O'er the placid river's tide ;
Far from the world I love to hide.

There, lost in calm reflection deep,
Let me from intrusion keep ;
And beneath the rocky steep,
Softly sigh, or sweetly sleep.

When Aurora streaks the sky,
And the busy insects fly,
With alacrity will I,
To my rustick pleasure hie.

The frugal, lab'ring ant and bee,
Shall teach me ease and industry ;
Each bird, and beast, and fish I see,
Gives some reproof or hint to me.

Fain would I shun the haunts of men,
Nor wish with them to mix again ;
But, in the lonely quiet glen,
Alternate use my book and pen.

Let canting *Jefferson* still stand,
Head of the Jacobinick band ;
While dull *De Witt* deludes the land,
By lying *Cheetham's* factious hand.

What matters it to me, who rules,
Or what disputes disturb the schools,
Or who direct us, knaves or fools,
Who are the tyrants, who the tools ?

Wisdom and virtue must disdain,
To mix with men, when those who reign,
Befriend the miscreant *Duane*,
Base *Callender* and baser *Paine*.

I'll do the little good I can,
Regret so narrow is my span;
But steadily pursue my plan,
To be, and love and honest man.

Where sweet Passaick loves to stray,
Fain would I close my checker'd day,
In useful study, harmless play,
Till life has shed its last dim ray.

Nor can more lovely spots of ground,
Than on Passaick's banks be found;
Where nature's charms spread amply round,
Are heighten'd by the cat'ract's sound.

Here then, beside thy margin green,
Delighted with the sylvan scene;
My breast may be like that serene,
Nor one rude trouble intervene.

And when I see gay trav'llers roam,
Or hear that war's wild surges foam;
In peace I'll seek my quiet home,
And count the wits of Greece and Rome.

Far from the crowd with vice imbued,
The noisy rabble base and rude,
The vain coquette and capering prude,
I seek thy path, sweet solitude!

A CHARACTER.

IF among the scientifick politicians of this country, or any other description of the learned, 'there should be found a man, who, with the grace of exteriour accomplishment, or the fulsome semblance of it; with the gifts of fortune, and the rank of a gentleman; with a strong devotion to literature without remission and almost without example; with acuteness of mind and extensive classical erudition; who, I say, should so far forget himself, as to practise arts which would disgrace the meanest retainer to learning—If such a man should be found, with fair pro-

fessions and obliging attentions, simular of friendship but at the bottom false, hollow, designing, and malicious; who should inflict a wound with more than Parthian dexterity, and yet be studious of frequenting the company of men of character to countenance his own; and finally, who should collect and scatter around him the *virus lunare*, the vaporous drops that hang in any region of infection, that the objects of their influence might feel the blast of the inchanter, and know not whence it comes. If, I say, such a man should be found, I shall not name him, and it is not for him to lay bare is own conscience by a foolish, appropriating indiscretion. I have only sketched out at present such a character *in prose*; and all I shall say further is, may he, if such a man exist, strive to wipe out such actions by more than literary contrition, and deeply feel and know that he has lived, throughout the course of a life not inconsiderable in its duration, under a fatal errour and wretched abuse of time, learning, talents and accomplishments. This character is left *on record*, like any of La Bruyere's, *without even the shadow of a name*. It shall ever remain *unappropriated by me*.

If any person should ask why such an *imaginary* character was drawn, I reply in the words of Pope:

'Ask you the provocation that I had?
'The strong antipathy of good TO BAD."

BRITISH ORDERS IN COUNCIL.

THE promulgation of the new orders in Council of the 26th of April, has confounded democratick declamation and overthrown the arrogance of the party with irresistible astonishment. The lion which has been so long crouching to the eagle, in the columns of democratick newspapers, begins again to bristle his mane, and we shall probably cease to hear the eternal jargon of the coercion of the embargo, and Great Britain at the feet of America. The truth is, that the democrats are beginning to exclaim against such a modification of the old Orders, and such a relaxation of the restrictions on neutral trade, as they would have greeted with delight, three months ago; before the settlement of our differences was made at Washington. Mr. Pinckney has probably made up an accommodation with Mr. Canning upon the precise terms of his instructions from the Jefferson cabinet, as recognized in the non-intercourse law. We have all a-

long maintained,* that Great Britain had offered terms through Mr. Erskine, in Washington, which were entirely unexpected by our government, and infinitely more favourable than we had pretended to claim, through our minister at St. James's. All the merit, therefore, which the accommodation in Washington implies, was to be ascribed to the candour of the British government, since we had given authority to Mr. Pinckney to come to a settlement on conditions much less advantageous. The difference of the two cases is very apparent, and forms a decisive conclusion as to the presumed inefficacy of the embargo system, in the opinion of the administration.

Although we have vested Mr. Pinckney with powers to settle or compromise our dispute upon the terms which the new orders indicate, it will not follow by any means, that the British government do not intend to abide by the settlement as made by Mr. Erskine, provided he has not exceeded his authority. By the present order we are authorized to proceed to any ports of the world not immediately governed by French authority; and the French decrees debar us from entering such places in case the British were ever so well inclined. Yet as it is evidently the interest of Great-Britain to secure her West Indian monopoly; and prevent every pound of the colonial produce of her enemy from reaching the mother country, we do not think it improbable that a rigorous blockade of the principal European and colonial ports will be instituted, as soon as Bonaparte shall have repealed his decrees.

But whilst they continue to afford a precedent for a parchment system of blockade, Great Britain may perhaps undertake to defend her adoption of similar hostilities, not on the ground of right or justice, but of reciprocality. We are far from viewing such an intention however with either lenity or forbearance; we only mean to assert that if Great Britain should do it, it would be an abundant proof that the embargo policy had failed of its coercive effects. Great Britain in such a case could not be justified; yet it is not improbable that some master stroke of policy was designed, when Mr. Erskine came forward to offer such terms of accommodation, as were far beyond the expectations of the people of both countries. What necessity was there on the

* Ordeal, page 300.

part of Mr. Canning for conceding any points to us, which we did not require? Points, the decision of which we were willing to wave? The reason is not to be sought in the national benevolence of the government of Great Britain; but in the diplomatick cunning of the prime minister.

GREAT BRITAIN.

IF it should happen after all our settlement of difficulties that the English minister had in some minute particular exceeded his instructions in his correspondence with Mr. Smith, the democrats perhaps would not consider Mr. Canning justified in refusing to confirm the accommodation, after the example of Mr. Jefferson in regard to the rejected treaty. Yet if the government of the United States refuse to comply with the terms which their minister concurred in forming, surely Great Britain will have a right to avail herself of a similar excuse, if imperious necessity should require it. So it is that the example of Mr. Jefferson is destructive to the country in whatever aspect it may be contemplated. The presumption is, however, that Great Britain will confirm the arrangement made at Washington, in so far as that she will repeal the orders in Council in our favour; but if France continue her decrees without declaring war upon us, we still believe the present ministry will institute a regular blockade of all the enemies colonies and the principal European ports. The opposition in England has now become very formidable; if events on the continent should prove unfavourable, the probability is that the ministers will be obliged to resign; at any rate they will not dare to violate their publick faith, pledged to America, although the uncommonly advantageous terms upon which the accommodation was made would lead to a conclusion, that she had a deeper design in the settlement than we are yet able to discover.

THE AUSTRIANS IN ARMS.

THERE are some favourable lights in which the present struggle of Austria against the French can be viewed, which will serve to relieve the sober appearance of the prospect. It is a war of necessity on the part of Austria, and she enters into it

probably, with the full persuasion that she must exert all her strength, before she can recover her lost dominions, or regain her lost prowess. She is not trammelled by any of those formidable combinations, (alas, only formidable to their own existence!) commonly denominated coalitions. She goes singly into the war, and her singleness will probably be her safety. The cabinet hitherto distracted with divisions, is now united in the Arch Duke Charles, who is universally considered, in Europe, to be second to no other general in the world, but Moreau. Austria has again taken the field, under a new system of tacticks, which inspires her soldiers with courage, and under a general whose complete control over his soldiers' affections, would inspire that courage, if other inducements should fail. We repeat it, that there is more to be hoped from Austria single handed, than from a coalition. Spain, if the Arch Duke should gain some partial success, and on that account oblige Bonaparte to turn his whole attention upon him, would have another opportunity to breathe and recover her strength. She might be able to form a new army, and give employment to the French troops for many succeeding years; but to reduce the present French military despotism by hard fighting, would require more force than all Europe could bring into the field, and more years than any man now alive will probably experience. Suppose Spain, Portugal and Austria were to gain many successes this campaign, it would not shock the foundation of the French power. Napoleon's greatest generals and statesmen, have now a permanent personal interest in maintaining his authority. Besides, he has established his empire, the period of the revolution has passed, and nothing but another more formidable than the first, would be likely to subvert the present government; and the French have now such a sense of revolutions, that they shudder at the very recollection of the last.

Austria may, and we sincerely hope she will, gain some such success, as will produce a recovery of her late dominions. But the hope of shaking France to the centre, at this late period, must be considered utterly futile and ridiculous. Napoleon, like Shakespeare, is seated upon a throne of adamant, and the stream of time, which washes away as it passes the fabricks of minor powers, leaves uninjured the basis on which his might is established.

RECENT PUBLICATION.

AN EPISTLE

To a Member of the General Court of Massachusetts, 1809.

This is a poetical address to some statesman belonging to the Massachusetts legislature; but we have been puzzled to discover who he is, or what is the intention of the poet, in the epistle. The author thus speaks of an orator in the house; we do not pretend to understand to whom he alludes; we quote the lines to perplex our readers as well as ourselves. They will afford a fair specimen of the poetry.

"And lo! where . . . . . in debate,
Rises, mature, to save the state;
From long experience wary grown,
Though parties change, preserves his own;
Full well his merit all can note,
There's one criterion to his vote;
As turns the publick wind the vanes,
The publick voice his vote distrains;
And let the publick ship careen,
He scuds the surf and strand between.
Nor yet for this alone revere,
In manners soft, in faith severe;
And more, has this peculiar grace,
With fluent speech, a winning face;
Has old Ulysses' downcast look,
A shepherd man, deprived of crook,
Yet in this sly disguise sustains
A vast *corposity* of brains.
He speaks, and lo! the astonish'd house
Might hear the love-song of a mouse;
Might hear the itch of Snowdon's pimples,
The eddying winds in Carbon's dimples;
How all the logick links are crack'd!
How all the cubick figures rack'd!
What metaphorick splinters fly!
What windmills dance before the eye!
Yield, Burke, in sober sadness yield,
A mightier reaper strips the field."

There are some judicious notes upon the subversion of the republican principle in the conduct of elections by means of secret committees and legislative caucuses. The piece, on the whole, is not calculated to have any material effect upon the publick, from the profound obscurity in which its intention is buried.

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 25.] SATURDAY, JUNE 24, 1809. [Vol. I.

DANGERS OF AMERICAN LIBERTY.

THE character of the writings of Mr. Ames was original thought. A kind of inspiration seemed to pervade his imagintion, and he expressed his notions without disguise or hesitation. We are therefore frequently honestly told of dangers which, in his opinion, really existed, in terms not very flattering to our national vanity, and for this very reason are they more likely to be true. He has been much abused by a jacobin writer, in the Patriot newspaper, for the posthumous production which has lately been published among his works, entitled 'The Dangers of American Liberty,' because the writer says he can discover in it, an avowed contempt of his own country, devotion to the interests of Great-Britain, and hatred to France. But that writer should be induced to repress his indignant invective from the consideration that Mr. Ames never ambitiously sought offices by means the most base and humble, that those which he ever filled were a source of loss rather than of very great profit to him, and that his principles, however erroneous they might be, were constant, steady, invariable. Hence his foreign partialities, if he had any, were pure; it is the character of the treacherous to change with every revolution of personal ambition. Notwithstanding Mr. Ames entertained opinions unfavourable to the idea that the federalists would ever regain their authority, he did not meanly renounce such a doctrine to facilitate any ambitious views, or advance corrupt designs; of course he could never be mortified by reproach for his political tergiversation and infamy. No, *his* principles were pure, if they were not flattering; he disdained to encourage even his own party to hope for a restoration of power, and it is to be wished that they may follow his exam-

ple in their persevering adherence to their principles. On such perseverence will the safety of the country depend.

The following extract relating to Federal power, may be particularly interesting at the present moment; and will fully serve to evince the *honesty* of Mr. Ames's patriotism, to those who could for a moment entertain a suspicion of it.

"On evidence lamentably clear, I found my opinion, that the federalists can never again become the dominant party; in other words, the publick reason and virtue cannot be again, as in our first twelve years, and never will be again the governing power, till our government has passed through its revolutionary changes. Every faction that may happen to rule will pursue but two objects, its vengeance on the fallen party, and the security of its own power against any new one that may rise to contest it. As to the glory that wise rulers partake, when they obtain it for their nation, no person of understanding will suppose, that the gaudy, ephemeral insects, that bask and flatter no longer than while the sun of popularity shines without a cloud, will either possess the means or feel the passion for it. What have the Condorcets and Rolands of to-day to hope or to enjoy from the personal reputation or publick happiness of to-morrow? Their objects are all selfish, all temporary. Mr. Jefferson's letters to Mazzei or Paine, his connexion with Callender, or his mean condescension to France and Spain, will add nothing to the weight of his disgrace with the party that shall supplant him. To be their enemy will be disgrace enough, and so far a refuge for his fame, as it will stop all curiosity and enquiry into particulars. Every party that has fallen in France has been overwhelmed with infamy, but without proofs or discrimination.—If time and truth have furnished any materials for the vindication of the ex-rulers, there has, nevertheless, been no instance of the return of the publick to pity, or of the injured to power.—The revolution has no retrograde steps. Its course is onward from the patriots and statesmen to the hypocrites and cowards, and onward still through successive committees of ruffians, till some one ruffian happens to be a hero. Then chance no longer has a power over events, for this last inevitably becomes an emperour.

"The restoration of the federalists to their merited influence in the government supposes two things, the slumber or extinction

of faction, and the efficacy of publick morals. It supposes an interval of calm, when reason will dare to speak, and prejudice itself will incline to hear. Then, it is still hoped by many, *Nova progenies cælo demittitur alto*, the genuine publick voice would call wisdom into power; and the love of country, which is the morality of politicks, would guard and maintain its authority.

Are not these the visions that delight a poet's fancy, but will never revisit the statesman's eyes? When will faction sleep? Not till its labours of vengeance and ambition are over. Faction, we know, is the twin brother of our liberty, and born first; and, as we are told in the fable of Castor and Pollux, the only one of the two, that is immortal. As long as there is a faction in full force, and possessed of the government too, the publick will and the publick reason must have power to compel, as well as to convince, or they will convince without reforming. Bad men, who rise by intrigue, may be dispossessed by worse men, who rise over their heads by deeper intrigue; but what has the publick reason to do, but to deplore its silence or to polish its chains? This last we find is now the case in France. All the talent of that country is employed to illustrate the virtues and exploits of that chief, who has made a nation happy by putting an end to the agitations of what they call their liberty, and who naturally enough insist, that they enjoy more glory than any other people, because they are more terrible to all.

The publick reason, therefore, is so little in a condition to re-establish the federal cause, that it will not long maintain its own. Do we not see our giddy multitude celebrate with joy, the triumphs of a party over some essential articles of our constitution, and recently over one integral and independent branch of our government? When our Roland falls, our Danton will be greeted with as loud a peal and as splendid a triumph. If federalism could by a miracle resume the reins of power, unless political virtue and pure morals should return also, those reins would soon drop or be snatched from its hands.

By political virtue is meant that love of country, diffused through the society and ardent in each individual, that would dispose, or rather impel every one to do or suffer much for his country, and permit no one to do any thing against it. The Romans sustained the hardships and dangers of military service, which fell not, as amongst modern nations, on the dregs of soci-

ety, but, till the time of Marius, exclusively on the flower of the middle and noble classes. They sustained them nevertheless, both with constancy and alacrity, because the excellence of life, every Roman thought, was glory, and the excellence of each man's glory, lay in its redounding to the splendour and extent of the empire of Rome.

Is there any resemblance in all this to the habits and passions that predominate in America? Are not our people wholly engrossed by the pursuit of wealth and pleasure? Though grouped together into a society, the propensities of the individual still prevail; and if the nation discovers the rudiments of any character, they are yet to be developed. In forming it, have we not ground to fear, that the sour, dissocial, malignant spirit of our politicks will continue to find more to dread and hate in party than to love and reverence in our country? What foundation can there be for that political virtue to rest upon, while the virtue of the society is proscribed, and its vice lays an exclusive claim to emolument and honour? And as long as faction governs, it must look to all that is vice in the state for its force, and to all that is virtue for its plunder. It is not merely the choice of faction, though, no doubt, base agents are to be preferred for base purposes, but it is necessary also, to keep men of true worth depressed by keeping the turbulent and worthless contented.

How then, can love of country take root and grow in a soil, from which every valuable plant has thus been plucked up and thrown away as a weed? How can we forbear to identify the government with the country? and how is it possible that we should at the same time lavish all the ardour of our affection, and yet withhold every emotion either of confidence or esteem? It is said, that in republicks, majorities invariably oppress minorities. Can there be any real patriotism in a state which is thus filled with those who exercise and those who suffer tyranny? But how much less reason has any man to love that country, in which the voice of the majority is counterfeited, or the vicious, ignorant, and needy are the instruments, and the wise and worthy are the victims of oppression?

When we talk of patriotism as the theme of declamation, it is not very material, that we should know with any precision what we mean. It is a subject on which hypocrisy will seem to ignorance to be eloquent, because all of it will be received and well

received as flattery. If, however, we search for a principle or sentiment, general and powerful enough to produce national effects, capable of making a people act with constancy, or suffer with fortitude, is there any thing in our situation that could have produced, or that can cherish it? The straggling settlements of the Southern part of the union, which now is the governing part, have been formed by emigrants from almost every nation of Europe. Safe in their solitudes alike from the annoyance of enmies and of government, it is infinitely more probable, that they will sink into barbarism than rise to the dignity of national sentiment and character. Patriotism, to be a powerful or steady principle of action, must be deeply imbued by education and strongly impressed both by the policy of the government and the course of events. To love our country with ardour, we must often have some fears for its safety; our affection will be exalted in its distress; and our self-esteem will glow on the contemplation of its glory. It is only by such diversified and incessant exercise, that the sentiment can become strong in the individual, or be diffused over the nation.

But how can that nation have any such affinities, any sense of patriotism, whose capacious wilderness receives and separates from each other the successive troops of emigrants from all other nations, men who remain ignorant, or learn only from the newspapers, that they are countrymen, who think it their *right* to be exempted from all tax, restraint, or control, and of course that they have nothing to do with or for their country, but to make rulers for it, who, after they are made, are to have nothing to do with their makers—a country too, which they are sure will not be invaded, and cannot be enslaved? Are not the wandering Tartars or Indian hunters at least as susceptible of patriotism as these stragglers in our western forests, and infinitely fonder of glory? It is difficult to conceive of a country, which, from the manner of its settlement, or the manifest tendencies of its politicks is more destitute or more incapable of being inspired with political virtue.

What foundation remains then, for the hopes of those who expect to see the federalists again invested with power?

Shall we be told that if the nation is not animated with publick spirit, the individuals are at least fitted to be good citizens by the purity of their morals? But what are morals without re-

straints? and how will merely voluntary restraints be maintained? How long will sovereigns, as the people are made to fancy they are, insist more upon checks than prerogatives? Ask Mr. *** and judge Chase.

Besides, in political reasoning it is generally overlooked, that, if the existence of morals should encourage a people to prefer a democratick system, the operation of that system is sure to destroy their morals. Power in such a society cannot long have any regular control; and, without control, it is itself a vice. Is there in human affairs an occasion of profligacy more shameless or more contagious than a general election? Every spring gives birth and gives wings to this epidemick mischief. Then begins a sort of tillage that turns up to the sun and air the most noxious weeds in the kindliest soil; or to speak still more seriously, it is a mortal pestilence, that begins with rottenness in the marrow. A democratick society will soon find its morals the incumbrance of its race, the surly companion of its licentious joys. It will encourage its demagogues to impeach and persecute the magistracy till it is no longer disquieted. In a word, there will not be morals without justice; and though justice might possibly support a democracy, yet a democracy cannot possibly support justice.

Rome was never weary of making laws for that end, and failed. France has had nearly as many laws as soldiers, yet never had justice or liberty for one day. Nevertheless, there can be no doubt, that the ruling faction has often desired to perpetuate its authority by establishing justice. The difficulties however, lie in the nature of the thing; for indemocratick states there are ever more volunteers to destroy than to build; and nothing that is restraint can be erected, without being odious, nor maintained, if it is. Justice herself must be built on a loose foundation, and every villain's hand is, of course, busy to pluck out the underpinning. Instead of being the awful power that is to control the popular passions, she descends from the height of her temple, and becomes the cruel and vindictive instrument of them.

Federalism was, therefore, manifestly founded on a mistake, on the supposed existence of sufficient political virtue, and on the permanency and authority of the publick morals.

The party now in power committed no such mistake. They acted on the knowledge of what men actually are, not what they

ought to be. Instead of enlightening the popular understanding, their business was to bewilder it. They knew that the vicious, on whom society makes war, would join them in their attack upon government. They inflamed the ignorant; they flattered the vain; they offered novelty to the restless; and promised plunder to the base. The envious were assured, that the great should fall; and the ambitious, that they should become great. The federal power, propped by nothing but opinion, fell, not because it deserved its fall, but because its principles of action were more exalted and pure than the people could support.

It is now undeniable, that the federal administration was blameless. It has stood the scrutiny of time, and passed unharmed through the ordeal of its enemies. With all the evidence of its conduct in their possession, and with servile majorities at their command, it has not been in their power, much as they desired it, to fix any reproach on their predecessors.

It is the opinion of a few, but a very groundless opinion, that the cause of order will be re-established by the splitting of the reigning jacobins; or, if that should not take place soon, the union will be divided, and the northern confederacy compelled to provide for its own liberty. Why, it is said, should we expect, that the union of the bad will be perfect, when that of the Washington party, though liberty and property are at stake, has been broken? And why should it be supposed, that the northern states, who possess so prodigious a preponderance of white population, of industry, commerce, and civilization over the Southern, will remain subject to Virginia? Popular delusion cannot last, and as soon as the opposition of the federalists ceases to be feared, the conquerors will divide into new factions, and either the federalists will be called again into power, or the union will be severed into two empires."

RULE OF WAR AGAIN.

FROM THE EDINBURGH REVIEW.

"It is contended, that England, has a right to prohibit the neutrals from carrying on any trade during war, which was not open to them during peace. But why should not the same rule extend to a trade of which the neutrals, though permitted by

law, did in fact not partake before the war? It is owing to our hostilities, that the Americans carry wines from Bourdeaux to Amsterdam; they came into this traffick in order to shelter the French and Dutch traders from our cruizers; we have as good a right to prohibit it, as to stop their trade in sugar and coffee. In like manner, the French used to import American produce in their own vessels; now they only receive it in American ships. Instead of a part, therefore, the Americans have the whole of this trade, and England has a right to confine them to their former share of it; but as this is utterly impossible, without stopping it altogether, she may exercise her belligerent rights in the only way practicable, and cut off the Americans from all intercourse whatever with her enemies. This is exactly what the French government has threatened us with; and it must be admitted to follow clearly, from the principles of the rule of the war of 1756. Accordingly some politicians recommend it to England. Now, let us see what follows. We are desired to cut off all intercourse between America and our enemies; this will no doubt injure our enemies, but it will hurt America still more. For we are unfortunately at war with about ten different nations, each of whom will thus lose its American trade: but America will lose its trade with each of them; and will suffer, perhaps, ten times as much as any of them.* Being at war with almost the whole world ourselves, we shall in revenge, monopolize the whole trade of a neutral and friendly power, and indemnify ourselves at its expence. But shall we, in fact, be benefiting ourselves by so singular a conduct? We may call it monopolizing the trade of America, but, in truth, it is equally giving her the monopoly of our own trade; it is confining the Americans to intercourse with ourselves, and ourselves to intercourse with them; for, the keenest advocates of the rule of 1756 admit, ex-

* The learned and ingenious author of '*War in Disguise*, (p. 37, 5th edit.) treats with some contempt the assertion that neutrals suffer hardship in not being allowed to supply themselves with colonial produce in the enemy's island's during war; a hardship, he observes, which they suffer equally during peace. But surely, if one belligerent interdicts all colony trade except her own, the neutrals, instead of having the market for produce open in all the mother countries, are confined to the market of that of one belligerent. If America is prevented from buying French produce, and our market cannot supply her, she suffers as much as France does by the prohibition. And even if she can get a supply from us, she suffers a much greater restriction in her trade than if she were still an English colony.

plicitly, that we have not a shadow of right to partake, under any pretexts, in a trade which we shut against the neutrals. If then we cannot cut off our enemy's commerce, without injuring the Americans a great deal more, so neither can we injure the Americans without hurting ourselves equally; and such, in a few words, is the benefit to be derived, from the complete assertion of our pretended rights towards neutrals.

The progress of the demands which have been made by the assertors of these rights, is exceedingly instructive as to their real views. The transports of produce from the enemy's colonies to the mother country direct, in neutral vessels, is first required to be stopped. The neutral then carries it to his own ports, and from thence to the enemy's. We are required to consider this as one voyage, and an evasion of the first prohibition. A second prohibition is therefore demanded; the produce must be fairly landed and pay duties; and it must not be reexported in the same vessel which brought it. Under all these restrictions however, the neutral can afford to continue the trade; and the produce still finds its way to the enemy, though at very advanced prices. We are now desired, therefore, to enforce the rule of the war of 1756, and to prevent the produce from entering our enemy's ports at all, in neutral bottoms, because, in time of peace, that commerce was interdicted by him. Suppose we again comply, and that the neutrals yield—they will carry the produce to some neutral European port, from which it may find its way to the market; that is, to our enemies. A new demand is therefore necessary. We are required absolutely to prohibit all traffick in colonial produce which came originally from the enemy's colony. Even this would be evaded; for, how is such produce to be distinguished from the very produce sold by ourselves to those neutrals, according to the strict letter of our own navigation law? We must therefore, interdict absolutely, all carriage of colonial produce in any vessels not being British. But this, though sufficient to outrage all publick law, would still be inadequate to prevent smuggling, so long as any traffick remained between our enemies and the neutrals. There is but one other step to take, therefore. We must go to war with the neutrals, and put their ships upon the same footing with those of our enemy, whose places in trade they are now filling. By this chain it is,

that we are driven on from prohibition to prohibition, till we find that the prohibition of neutrality itself is our only remedy; and that we can only trust to the vigilance of our cruizers for the security of our colonial monopoly, and the interruption of our enemy's trade. The case is therefore short and plain. If all nations will not go to war with France, when we choose to do so, we must go to war with them also. There is no other way of vexing our enemy and protecting our mercantile profits."

STELLA.

WE frequently alluded to Stella, a German drama of a most pernicious tendency, in our notes to 'the Rovers, or Double Arrangement,' which we published in the hope of ridiculing the absurdities of such productions. The following account of that celebrated German monster may gratify those of our readers who cannot have recourse to the original.

"Ferdinand, a young nobleman, 'for something, or for nothing,' thinks proper to leave his home, his wife, (*Cecilia*), and an only daughter. He then attaches himself to *Stella*, the heroine of the drama, who abandons her connections, and the prospect of a good estate, to follow this child of inconstancy and ennui. But *Stella* is as little able to fix the wanderer as *Cecilia*, and *Ferdinand* forsakes his mistress with the same *sang-froid* as he had before quitted his wife: he enters into foreign service, and after three years returns to the spot where *Stella* resided. Hither, also, his wife, reduced to distress, had just arrived with her daughter, who was engaged as an attendant in *Stella's* family. They recognize each other, and *Ferdinand* agrees to return to his duty: but how to disengage himself from *Stella?* The following scene, in which the distress seems to be at the height, will shew the result of that determination. It is a *bonne bouche*, and breathes the very spirit and essence of German tragedy.

"STELLA. You terrify me, Ferdinand! You look wildly!

FERDINAND. Stella—I am a wretch and a coward! I lose all my powers when I am with you—I have not the resolution to strike the dagger into your heart, and yet secretly meditate slow poison! Oh Stella! Stella.

STELLA. For heaven's sake!

FERDINAND. *(With bitterness and passion.)* And only not to see your sorrow! not to hear you despair! To fly!

STELLA. *(In a faint voice.)* I can support myself no longer. *(She is sinking, but holds by him.)*

FERDINAND. Stella! whom I hold in my arms! Stella! thou who art all to me! Stella! *(Coldly.)* I leave thee!

STELLA. *(Staring confusedly and smiling.)* Me ?

FERDINAND. *(Gnashing his teeth.)* Yes, thee ! with the woman whom thou hast seen ! with the girl !

STELLA. It grows dark.

FERDINAND. That woman is my wife—*(Stella looks earnestly at him, and falls into his arms.)* And the girl is my daughter ! Stella ! *(He observes that she is fainted.)* Stella ! *(He carries her to a chair.)* Stella ! Oh help ! help !

[CECILIA and LUCY enter.]

FERDINAND. Look ! look at this angel ! She is gone !—See ! O help ! help !

[CECILIA and LUCY are both busied about her.]

LUCY. She is beginning to recover.

[*He looks at them for some time without speaking.*]

FERDINAND. And by your aid ! by your aid ! *Exit.*

STELLA. Who ? Where ? *(Standing up.)* Where is he ? *(She sinks back, and looks round at* CECILIA *and* LUCY *who are still employed about her.)* Thank you ! thank you ! Who are you ?

CECILIA. Compose yourself ; We are—

STELLA. You ? Are you not gone ? You are ? Heaven, who told it me ? Who are you ? Are you ? *(Taking* CECILIA *by the hand.)* No ! I lose myself again !

CECILIA. Dearest, best of women ! Let me press you to my bosom !

STELLA. It lies deep in my soul ; tell me ; are you ?

CECILIA. I am ; I am his wife.

STELLA. *Starting back, and putting her hand before her eyes.* And I !

[*She walks wildly backwards and forwards.*]

CECILIA. Let me conduct you to your apartment."

To rid himself of this awkward embarrassment, though, like Macheath, he would have been extremely ' happy with either, were t'other dear charmer away,' *Ferdinand* sees no alternative but SUICIDE. *Cecilia*, however, [*the wife*] makes a proposal, which is accepted with readiness by all parties, and which, for the sake of the picture we are presented with, the author shall explain in his own words. It does not appear that Goëthe intended the play should conclude with a *dance*, but it certainly is not complete without one.

CECILIA. *(Opens a door, and calls.)* Stella ! *(Stella enters, looks wildly at the pistols, at Cecilia, and Ferdinand. Then clasping Cecilia in her arms.)*

STELLA. Father of mercies ! What is this ? *(Ferdinand starts up, and is running distractedly from them ; Cecilia holds him.)*

CECILIA. Divide with me that heart, Stella, the whole of which belongs to you ; you have saved my husband ; saved him from himself, and you have restored him to me again.

FERDINAND. *(Approaches Stella.)* My Stella !

STELLA. I comprehend it not.

CECILIA. You will know all; even now your heart explains it.

STELLA. *(Falling on Ferdinand's neck.)* And may I trust that heart?

CECILIA. Do you thank me for arresting the fugitive?

STELLA. *(Taking* CECILIA *in her arms.)* O Cecilia.

FERDINAND. *(Embracing both.)* Mine! mine!

STELLA. *(Taking hold of his hands, and hanging upon him).* I am thine!

CECILIA. We are both thine!" [*The play concludes with this sentence.*]

Some of our readers will no doubt be entertained by the story which serves as '*the prologue to this act.*' It is related by the accommodating wife herself.

"There was once a Count, a German Count, who from a sense of religious duty, left his wife and country to go to the Holy Land. He travelled through many kingdoms, and was at length taken captive. His slavery excited the compassion of his master's daughter; she loosened his chains; they escaped together; she accompanied him through all the perils of war as his page. Crowned with victory, he returned to his noble wife; but the dear girl *(for he thought humanely)* he did not desert. His high-born consort hastened to meet him, and thought all her faith and love rewarded by folding him again in her arms. And when the knight proudly threw himself from his horse upon his native soil, and the spoils were laid at her feet—'My wife,' said he 'the greatest prize is still behind.' A gentle damsel appeared veiled amidst the crowd: he took her by the hand, and presented her to his wife, saying, 'Here is my deliverer; she freed me from captivity; she made the winds propitious; she attended upon me; fought by me; nursed me. What do I not owe her? here she is; do you reward her.' The generous wife embraced her, wept on her neck, and cried, 'Take all that I can give. Let him be yours, he of right belongs to you; he of right too belongs to me; let us not part; let us all remain together.' Then falling into her husband's arms; 'We are your's!' she exclaimed; 'We are both your's,' they cried with one voice; 'We are your's for ever;' and heaven smiled propitious on their love! the holy vicar pronounced his benediction on them! and they had but one dwelling and one grave."

Notwithstanding these ludicrous circumstances, and the eccentricity, or rather the absurdity, of the plot, the language is sometimes beautifully poetical, and possesses all the glowing and seductive charms of *Werter;* but the Germans have, (to us at least) the most singular and unaccountable notions of moral obligation; every thing is sacrificed to passion and sentiment. The characters in this drama overflow with *sensibility*, but it is a sensibility that hurries them beyond the boundary of virtue. A vigorous fancy, and a warm imagination, are poor apologies for *guilt*.

COMPARITIVE CRITICISM.

MARMION—BY WALTER SCOTT.

Extract from the Edinburgh Review.

WE are inclined to suspect, that the success of the work now before us will be less brilliant than that of the author's former publication, though we are ourselves of opinion, that its intrinsick merits are nearly, if not altogether, equal; and that if it had had the fortune to be the elder born, it would have inherited as fair a portion of renown as has fallen to the lot of its predecessor. It is a good deal longer, indeed, and somewhat more ambitious; and it is rather clearer that it has greater faults, than that it has greater beauties; though, for our own parts, we are inclined to believe in both suppositions. It has more tedious and flat passages, and more ostentation of historical and antiquarian lore; but it has also greater richness and variety, both of character and incident; and if it has less sweetness and pathos in the softer passages, it has certainly more vehemence and force of colouring in the loftier and busier representations of action and emotion. The place of the prologuizing minstrel is but ill supplied, indeed, by the epistolary dissertations which are prefixed to each book of the present poem; and the ballad pieces and mere episodes which it contains, have less finish and poetical beauty; but there is more airiness and spirit in the lighter delineations; and the story, if not more skilfully conducted, is at least better complicated, and extended through a wider field of adventure. The characteristicks of both, however, are evidently the same;—a redundancy of minute description—bursts of unequal and energetick poetry—and a general tone of spirit and animation, unchecked by timidity or affectation, and unchastised by any great delicacy of taste, or elegance of fancy.

But though we think this last romance of Mr. Scott's about as good as the former, and allow that it affords great indications of poetical talent, we must remind our readers, that we never entertained much partiality for this sort of composition, and ventured on a former occasion to express our regret, that an author endowed with such talents should consume them in imitations of obsolete extravagance, and in the representation of manners and sentiments in which none of his readers can be supposed to take much interest, except the few who can judge of their exactness.

To write a modern romance of chivalry, seems to be much such a fantasy as to build a modern abbey, or an English pagoda. For once, however, it may be excused as a pretty caprice of genius; but a second production of the same sort is entitled to less indulgence, and imposes a sort of duty to drive the author from so idle a task, by a fair exposition of the faults which are in a manner inseparable from its execution."

Extract from the Monthly Review.

"From the novelty of its style and subject, and from the spirit of its execution, Mr. Scott's 'Lay of the last Minstrel' kindled a sort of enthusiasm among all classes of readers; and the concurrent voice of the publick assigned to it a very exalted rank, which, on more cool and dispassionate examination, its numerous essential beauties will enable it to maintain. For vivid richness of colouring and truth of costume, many of its descriptive pictures stand almost unrivalled: it carries us back in imagination to the time of action; and we wander with the poet along Tweed-side, or among the wild glades of Ettricke Forest.

Perhaps this is the highest merit of poetry; and to this praise Mr. Scott is most undoubtedly entitled in an eminent degree. His faults, however, are at least equally numerous, if not equally striking, with his excellencies. His fable is generally abrupt, obscure, and, abstracted from the charms of poetry, uninteresting. No proportion of means to effects is observed in the machinery or in the circumstances. The versification, though flowing and easy, is often (we had almost said) *shamefully* incorrect; and not unfrequently, in the midst of the most splendid passage, we are choaked by an unmusical line, or series of lines, deficient in every characteristick of poetry except rhyme, and sometimes even in that mechanical qualification. To these blemishes it may be added that the author carries even his beauties to a faulty excess; that his descriptions of natural scenery are repeated to tediousness; that his knowledge of the manners of former ages occasionally betrays him into pedantry; and that even the proper names of places which convey a peculiar charm to ears that have been versed in the ancient Scottish minstrelsy, are sprinkled so thickly and often with so little meaning as to make the reader, though delighted at first, begin at last to suspect a trick, and to take offence at that which, if managed with a sparing hand,

might have been made a source of unmixed pleasure and approbation.

These are the principal faults of Mr. Scott, to which the general pre-eminence of his former poem almost blinded his readers; and of all these, his extreme carelessness was undoubtedly the most material and the least excusable. We regard it as no extenuation of this errour, that in so many successive editions of the work he has chosen to adopt a motto* which expressing his consciousness of the fact, evinces a blameable spirit of defiance or of indifference to the censure occasioned by it. On the contrary, it more peculiarly behoved him to have studied a greater degree of correctness in any future publication: yet even in the volume before us, in the epistle to William Erskine, which he styles an introduction to his third Canto, he not only acknowledges the same errour, but asserts rather than excuses his perseverance in it.

Were it requisite to state our opinion of the comparative merits of this and the former poem, we should probably say that the peculiar beauties of each are almost equally balanced; that in Marmion the fable is more interesting, and the delineations of character and manners still more strongly and faithfully portrayed; that, on the other hand, we are gratified by fewer touches of pathos and fewer marks of genuine poetical enthusiasm; in short, that, as a whole, it is superiour: but that, taken to pieces, it presents much less that is worthy of our admiration, or that can excite and interest our affections. With regard to the faults, most of those which we have noticed as inherent in the 'Lay of the Last Minstrel' are observable, to a much greater degree, in Marmion. The story is so obscure, owing to the abrupt manner in which the several parts are connected together, that it requires a clear head to comprehend it at a single reading; and the instances of incorrect language and slovenly versification become frequent and gross to a most unpardonable extent."

Extract from the Monthly Mirror.

Some persons, self elevated to the critick's chair, have presumed to talk of this poem as much inferiour to the Lay of the Last Minstrel; but thinking that they are judged by a false criterion,

* "Dum relego, scripcisse pudet, quia plurima cerno
Me quoque, qui feci, judice, digna lini."

when compared, we have no respect for such opinions. Had Mr. Scott kept his work by him a little longer, until the love of his offspring had so abated, as to have suffered him to see it through no degree of false medium, Marmion would in every page have been above the censure of all but the envious and malign. We, however, are amongst those who cheerfully obey the humane precept of the Roman, and cannot be offended *paucis maculis*, with a few spots, when so surrounded with effulgence. What Voltaire said of Pope, we do not scruple, after the perusal of the Lay, and this more noble work, to say of their immortal author —We "never saw so amiable an imagination, so gentle graces, so great variety, or so refined a knowledge of the world," combined in any poet of any age. We have called him immortal, because no other date can be justly given to the wreath which he has woven.

Extract from the Satirist.

The story of Marmion is soon told in *prose*. Marmion, the pretended hero is a bad man, who debauches a nun, practices a forgery, courts an heiress, maintains a lie, combats a real rival, and a sham ghost, insults an aged nobleman, fights a tremendous battle, breaks a toledo, receives a home thrust, gets spilt from his horse, swills water, rants, shouts and dies.

To conclude our review of this uncouth, anomalous and motley performance. We are terribly inclined either to fear, that this poor man is, alas! fast approaching to second childhood; or to guess that he indolently blurted out this doleful ditty and truly delectable romance merely to amuse those precious 'imps' whom he so sweetly moralizes in his Epistle to William Stewart Rose, Esq.; we rather choose to admit the latter charitable conjecture, since Mr. Scott expressly and candidly says, at the close,

"To thee dear school-boy, whom my lay
Has cheated of thy hour of play,
Light task and merry holiday!
To all, to each, a fair good-night,
And pleasing dreams and slumbers light."

THE

ORDEAL.

N°. 26.] SATURDAY, JULY 1, 1809. [Vol. I.

RETROSPECTIVE ADDRESS.

"That all these papers are happily imagined, or accurately polished, that the same sentiments have not sometimes recurred, or the same expressions been too frequently repeated, I have not confidence in my abilities sufficient to warrant. He that condemns himself to compose on a stated day, will often bring to his task an attention dissipated, a memory embarrassed, an imagination overwhelmed, a mind distracted with anxieties, a body languishing with disease: he will labour on a barren topick till it is too late to change it; or in the ardour of invention, diffuse his thoughts into wild exuberance, which the pressing hour of publication cannot suffer judgment to examine or reduce."—*Johnson.*

THE present number of the Ordeal will complete one volume of a work, which the editors are confident to hope has been conducted in strict conformity to the principles upon which it was originally projected. As it is the present intention of the editors to discontinue the publication, custom obliges them to announce that intention with a certain degree of formality, though it will not follow that the publick will derive any peculiar interest in the disclosure. On the contrary, as the world received the annunciation of the work with frigid indifference, the editors will not be disappointed if they should dismiss it with undisturbed tranquillity. It is fortunate that the editors have never flattered themselves with the idea of being able to render the Ordeal a favourite publication; the meteorick flashes of wit and merriment were too transient to shed permanent effulgence upon their pages; and the lighter graces, which skim over the surface of literature, were too fragile to afford strength to the arm of satire, or vigour to political illustrations. Their aim was only to be useful, to establish a publication which might aspire to more dignity of discussion than is to be discovered in the common newspapers of the day, and at the same time to become the most eligible vehicle for the communication of literary and political pro-

ductions. It is not remarkable that an experiment should fail of the success anticipated by the projectors, and this day, will therefore, terminate the existence of the Ordeal. But the editors have frequently experienced flattering encouragement, in words, and they have not been entirely destitute of the support of munificent generosity.

The acknowledgments which they are obliged to make for extraneous assistance are few in number. The review of Mr. Buckminster's sermon in the seventh number, the burlesque ode in the twelfth, and the Review of Mr. Carey's sermon in the fourteenth and fifteenth, are the principal communications for which they are under obligations to different correspondents. There are other matters however, of minor consideration, which might be referred to other names than those of the editors, which it would be difficult, perhaps impossible, to enumerate; and ineligible, perhaps indelicate, to disclose.

It is peculiarly the pride of the editors to reflect, that their work has been conducted almost without assistance. It has generally been the production of individual effort, and laborious application; and therefore, they cannot but deprecate the lash of critical severity. But if the principles which they have espoused are firm, and the conclusions which they have adopted are true, the editors will not querulously complain if their language and style should be captiously derided. If the trunk be sound at the heart, it will do no harm to the tree to suppress the shoots of adventitious luxuriance.

The state of the commercial and political relations of the United States, when this publication was first commenced, was so desperate, that every friend of the country hung down his head in despair. The turpitude of Mr. Jefferson was every day becoming more evident; and a ruinous embargo, like a wasting sickness, consumed the property of the publick, in a proportion infinitely greater than the nominal amount. These two subjects then it became most important to discuss; and the review of Mr. Giles's speech on the embargo laws in our former numbers, and the Letters of Marcus Brutus, were composed in conformity to such intentions. There is a virulence of political invective supposed to exist in these few letters, which is not authorized by the facts on which the philippicks are founded. Those who assert that every political transaction in this country should have

its *measured share* of approbation or of censure applied to it, that just so much and no more than it intrinsically deserves, should be the quantity of either which is bestowed, know nothing of the state of politicks in the United States; and those who imagine that mere reasoning and solid argument are calculated to convince men in a republican government, of the truth or errour of opinions, know nothing of human nature. The liberty of the press would be useless unless great latitude of political investigation be allowed; where a whole assembly is constantly brawling, he must have the lungs of a Stentor, who expects to be heard distinctly amidst the tumult. It is salutary to the community that such ardent investigation should be encouraged; otherswise the natural sensibility of rules to the opinions of the people, would grow callous to the touch of luke warm censurers. For example, to the spirit which was excited last winter in the northern states, but particularly in Massachusetts, may we attribute the sudden deviation from the course of policy which the then administration were pursuing, and which if it had been much longer followed would have made a wreck of the honour, the hopes, and the prosperity of the country.

Now, if the daring spirit of enquiry and investigation which was exhibited in this state had not been promoted and encouraged, if the cold and inanimate expression of disapprobation which other parts of the country adopted, had been practiced in this, perhaps we might now be sinking in despondency, or at best, be groping our way to commercial and political distinction, with infantine exertion.

The nature and propriety of the opinions we have invariably maintained, as they were never the result of any party co-operation or advice, might perhaps sometimes deviate from the general sentiments of contemporary politicians of the same class.—The shades of difference, which may be found to exist, will not be fairly produced as a contradiction to federal opinions, or as a wilful opposition to prevailing sentiments. What we have written we have written; and we shall not shrink from the most scrutinizing investigation of the integrity of remark by which we have always been animated. Thus, we have held that the claims of Great-Britain, in what is called the rule of war of '56, but more especially the doctrines set up by the Orders in Council, are intrinsically unsound in principle, and flagrantly unjust

in practice. But that the American embargo was not a measure in the least calculated to enforce our rights in respect to that subject, by any appeals which could be made by means of it, to the interests of Great Britain, was a doctrine in our opinion equally true and conclusive, from various chains of argument. To the right of searching neutral merchant vessels, as claimed by Great Britain, we have paid considerable attention, and have maintained that the doctrine heretofore held by Mr. Madison is unsound. We do not deny the conduct of the British officers to be oppressive and frequently outrageous; but we have asserted that a practical rule, which shall exempt Americans from impressment, is the only remedy on which we ought to insist; for right is clearly on the side of Great Britain.

The most unfortunate affair of the Chesapeak was a subject on which Mr. Jefferson contributed to involve the country in peculiar difficulty. Not for the proclamation against British vessels of war, for that was unavoidable; he could not do less to gratify the exasperated malice of the populace, and he could not do more if he had been inclined, for the warlike power of the United States was inadequate to enforce any orders or directions which the British squadron had refused to obey. The difficulties connected with that attack, which have it is to be hoped been brought to a final determination, were in our negociation with Great Britain, in regard to the reparation for the wrong. It is well understood that many of the claims of Mr. Jefferson's administration, in negociating a treaty of commerce, were never acceded to by the British ministry; particularly on the question of impressments from American merchant vessels. The attack upon the American frigate, was supposed to afford an opportunity for enforcing our old claims of the immunity of the flag in merchant ships too favourable to be omitted. Accordingly our minister at the court of St. James was required to demand, as an item in the amount of reparation acknowledged by Great Britain to be due, the concession of the general principle of exemption. Now, as the demand included, in its very nature, an unattainable concession, which could not be granted to us without manifest injustice to herself on the part of Great Britain; and as it never should have been required, as a recompence for an aggression which did not involve the principle in question, so we have always opposed the administration for mingling the unjust

demand of the universal exemption of our flag from search, with the equitable one of specifick reparation for the Chesapeak disaster. With equal propriety might an individual who had been personally insulted, demand besides the customary acknowledgment of impropriety, from the guilty party, that he should give him his house, or confer upon him any other part of his property.

There never has been a period in our national existence which has marked the United States with so obvious a connection with contemporary history of mankind, and which has so much involved the immediate prosperity and future destiny of the country, as the previous year. And whilst events abroad have conspired to render us the only neutral power upon earth, of conspicuous consequence, and have rendered our weight in the scale of hostility of main consideration as to its ultimate vibration, the conduct of our rulers at home have marked our national character with a disgrace the more indelible, as the figure which we unfolded to the world was so evidently exposed. The president of the country, the theme of ridicule for his philosophick notions of government, to say no worse; his leaders in congress repeatedly making ridiculous laws, which they could not enforce; and in order to inforce them forming another, which nearly exciting rebellion, they were obliged immediately to repeal; laws, indeed, the baneful operation of which was felt by ourselves rather than our enemies, are circumstances which afford a faint outline of the appearance and conduct of our rulers at Washington. By some unaccountable fatality of opinion however, these men were supported by their party by a perversity of errour and multiplication of falsehood without a precedent in the records of party animosity. We have accordingly frequently resorted to the task of refuting the calumnies, misrepresentations, and falsehoods which were industriously circulated through the community in democratick papers. So much for our political opinions; which have been generally confined to a few predominant topicks which were obviously the most important to the community, whilst incidental assertions, the common theme of newspaper controversy, have been left to those who imagine that a decision of questions of a secondary nature, have any material effect on those of national magnitude.

Originally it was intended that a department of this paper should have been devoted to ridicule the enthusiastick disturbers

of religious tranquillity, who under the garb of fanaticism, wander about the country and contribute to overturn some of the best principles of social order and domestick happiness. It was also intended rigorously to attack the virulence of certain schismaticks, who pretend to maintain exclusive doctrines of salvation, and whose property and talents are devoted to the diffusion of religious intolerance and the imposition of a peculiar system of belief. But although nothing is more frequent or successful in Europe than satire so directed, it is found to create here, such excessive irritation, that these subjects have only been occasionally treated; and then not with the severity of which they are so evidently susceptible. Moliere produced a wonderful effect upon the French stage in his exposure of the religious hypocrite. The Non Juror of C. Cibber, which is a free translation of the drama of the celebrated French writer, afterward gained great success in England. The play is now performed under the little of The Hypocrite, as better adapted to the English stage, by Arthur Murphy, and we think it deserves the attention of our performers. The state of society fairly demands a publick exposition of the consummate hypocrisy, and secret vices of many of these holy impostors and pretenders to religious sanctity. The system of rational piety excludes all this vehemence of fanatick exclamation, this intolerance of opinion, which is so generally and fatally diffused in the New England States. It contains more reason, and less fanaticism; more charity, and less violence; more active beneficence, and less outward show.

The general design of our poetical department has been to deride any popular absurdities or follies which the literature of the times has presented to our view. Contributing to the original intention of the publication, it has been most frequently employed in ridiculing literary, rather than political or religious errours. We have been obliged, however, to resort to foreign alliances, to accomplish our contemplated intentions; America is a climate unpropitious to the diffusion of poetick inspiration, and we have called in vain upon the superintending divinity to bestow upon us a portion of his powers. We have indeed been induced to hope much from promises largely advanced; but have realized little from kindnesses conferred. Yet we are not without belief, that this branch of our paper, if properly understood and candidly examined, will be found to contain foreign

selections, which might become essentially useful in correcting some erroneous prevailing notions in regard to literary excellence.

The animosity which satirical compositions excite in all small communities, is the unavoidable consequence of the universal interest which the whole society seems to take in the object of the application. All persons, eminent either for their folly or their wisdom, have a pretty general acquaintance with all classes of people, and when a satire appears, there immediately arises a community of feeling for the person against whose peculiarities of errour or vice the shafts are directed, and all his acquaintances are ready to supply him with a shield. Whatever of satire therefore, which the Ordeal contains, has rather applied to personages of 'scale and office,' than to individuals who, however they might have deserved, have found protection in insignificance. The democratick party, as such, we have considered a legitimate object of attack, and the leaders of consequence have come in for their proportional share of its fury. But our acerbity, however caustick, and our censure, however vindictive, has always been dictated by an impression of the propriety of the application, and not from any feelings of personal animosity or irritation.

But we have no design to gratify vice or folly by any appearances of lamentation for their sufferings; nor to gain the regard of those whose good opinion it would be no advantage to obtain, and highly censurable to solicit.

In considering fairly the whole volume now presented to the publick, all reasonable allowances should be made for the editors in regard to the diversity of topicks which they have been obliged for the sake of variety to discuss, to the quantity of matter which they have weekly been obliged to supply, and to the peremptory calls for publication, which, as Dr. Johnson remarks, are so frequently made 'upon an attention dissipated, a memory embarrassed, an imagination overwhelmed,' and an invention languishing under the pressure of previous labours. There are many paragraphs inserted, which in their more leisure moments the editors would gladly have expunged, and many inaccuracies of expression and anomalies of thought, which they cannot review with complete satisfaction. Matters merely secondary have sometimes been unnecessarily extended, and the discussion of topicks of predominant interest have occasionally been censurably

abridged, or carelessly composed. Under such impressions the editors dismiss the work, under a full persuasion that they have faithfully performed their contract with the publick, and if they do not deserve the praise due to industry and talents, they may claim the reward to which he is fairly entitled, who with pure motives and intentions, exposes the hypocrisy, laughs at the follies, and assails the corruption of the times.

MILITARY.

THE skill and discipline of troops, modelled upon the modern system of tacticks which has rendered the French name so eminent, and their arms victorious, has in no particular, it is said, been more eminently successful, than in applying the principle of the oblique line of battle to large bodies of soldiers, than any other nation had ever before adopted. The hint was first adopted in practice by Frederick the Great, King of Prussia, but Napoleon has not only extended the principle but has combined it with other parts of the new system, which has made *his armies* almost irresistible. The following observations from 'Military Memoirs, Ancient and Modern, by Dr. Thompson,' well explains the nature and design of this order of government, and we presume will not be destitute of amusement to those of our readers, who relish military disquisitions.

"All arrangements of troops, in line of battle, are either *direct*, that is to say parallel, or nearly so, to the front of the enemy's line; or *oblique*, that is, inclined to his front; so that if the two lines were to meet at either extremity they would form an angle more or less acute.

1st. The direct order of battle is the most natural and obvious, the most simple in its disposition and operations, and the most ancient. In proportion, however, as the art of tacticks was improved, many important defects were discovered in the direct order: but the principal reason why it is seldom employed seems to be the difficulty of meeting with, in a campaign, a plain so level and so extensive, as to allow two considerable armies to be drawn up, in opposite lines, the one parallel to the other, and to manœuvre, close, and engage along their whole front at the same time.

Direct or parallel lines of battle must, besides, be very disadvantageous for any army, unless the front be but of very small extent, and that the commander have a sufficient number of troops, in reserve, to reinforce such parts of his line as the enemy appear to break through.

The oblique order of battle comprehends every species of disposition of troops, by which they can, at pleasure, be made to act against one or more points of the enemy's line, whilst the remaining parts of it are kept in check; such troops as are not engaged in these attacks, being held back, and beyond the reach of the enemy; by which operation the attacking army seems, in a general sense, to be obliquely inclined, by one or more angles, to that of the enemy.

This oblique order is the most scientifick, the most artful, and the most perfect of all. 'It is this,' says the Chevalier de Folard, 'against which a general, however able he may be, can form no opposition, when it is suddenly presented by the enemy: for, to be able to oppose it with due effect, it would be necessary to execute such manœuvres as cannot possibly be performed in the moment of action, as they require much time and previous arrangement. It might, for instance, be requisite to transport the whole left of an army to the right, or the whole right to the left.'

The parts of a line, with which the partial attack or attacks are to be made, are reinforced beyond the ordinary strength of the line, and the other parts not engaged, are weakened in proportion as they are removed from the enemy.

The oblique order is the genuine resource of a weak army. Its principal advantage consists in giving a commander the choice of the point of attack, and in rendering for some time, at least, the enemy's superiority in numbers of no use to them.

An army which is forced to engage another much more numerous, ought, above all to endeavour to outfront it on one of the wings, and to be strong on every point where the enemy may make an attack. By gaining these two grand advantages, and by keeping back the other parts of the line from action, a sort of equality, in effective strength, will be established between the two armies, the greater portion of the largest being thus rendered of no use in the battle.

Frederick II. or the Great, of Prussia, has of all the moderns, best studied the principles and properties of the oblique order. In his grand encampments and reviews, in time of peace, he shewed the mechanism of this order to his generals; and it was by it that he opened the way to his numerous victories. The Prussian tacticks form an æra in military history.

The oblique order may be employed against the right, the left, or the centre of the enemy's line, or against any of the intermediate points; but it is generally directed against one of the wings.

The great art of arranging this order, is to mask and conceal the design from the enemy, who being equally apprehensive of an attack on every point, cannot weaken one in order to strengthen any other.

The way to make an oblique attack miscarry, is to adopt an order contrary to that of the enemy, and to have always a considerable *corps de reserve*, of horse and foot, ready to reinforce the point attacked.

It is often of great advantage to employ the oblique order against an enemy, who has taken what he considers to be a good position, and there waits for the attack. In such a case he has no fears of being surprized, and for that very confidence is frequently defeated.

However inferiour a general may be, he never can be utterly defeated, if he act on the oblique order: for, as he does not engage the whole front of the enemy, nor even bring into action but a part of his own line, he can never suffer, excepting merely in the point of contact.

It follows from all this, that a general, who is obliged to engage an enemy superiour to himself in numbers, or in the quality of the troops, ought to take such a position as that the enemy cannot attack his whole front at one time. By such a position he will be saved from a total defeat; but, on the other hand, he will be prevented from employing his talents, or taking advantage of circumstances, to ruin the enemy, unless this last destroy his own army, by repeated and unsuccessful assaults on such parts as are within his reach."

MR. MADISON.

THE late happy negociation to accommodate our differences with Great Britain which we ardently hope may terminate in that country as successful as they have begun in this, has placed such a weight of popularity in the hands of Mr. Madison, that all the fear of his continuing in the presidency will be found in the probable desertion of his own party. Indications of mistrust have already been made, and if the president continues in the path of honour and integrity without vaulting or tottering or wavering, we confess we have some fears for his reputation amongst the democrats. But if the conduct of Napoleon when the accommodation with England shall have been communicated to him, shall appear to be hostile, we expect to hear Great Britain denounced in the utmost vehemence of fury, and if Mr. Madison should dare to speak boldly as he ought to speak to the French emperour, he will be assailed by his former supporters first with artful insinuations and then with open invective. The probable conduct of France at this critical juncture deserves the peculiar solicitude of politicians.

THE WORKS OF MR. AMES AGAIN.

THE allusions in the Patriot newspaper of last Wednesday, which were considered by the editor of the Ordeal as personally obnoxious, will have been removed by the writer of that paragraph in the paper of this day. The communication as far as regards the rest of the topicks which it involves, is still a subject of animadversion. In the first place, the remarks introductory to an extract from the 'Dangers of American Liberty,' by Mr. Ames were not intended as a reply to the Review to which they allude. But if the editor of the Ordeal has not undertaken that reply, it is not from any alterations of his impressions in respect to the *motives* of the writer; or in regard to the weakness of the ground which the reviewer has assumed. We have perused the review in question, and consider the integrity of Mr. Ames's political character in no degree affected by it; it needs no defence.

"The blood of Douglass will protect itself."

As to the accusation 'of indirect personal virulence against the supposed author of the review,' it may very fairly be remarked that the writer in the Patriot has discovered some general expressions highly derogatory to any individual to whose character they correspond, and has applied them to the supposed author of the review. We cannot be responsible for such an application; the author of the review must be obliged to the writer the Patriot, for the garb in which he chooses to array him. We learn from the same source, that 'the game, at which our pointless arrows' are directed, 'are above our reach,' which certainly could not be concluded from a perusal of the review. It could not be imagined that that composition came from any one who was not evidently open to censure and animadversion, from the meanest as well as the most exalted minds. As our editorial labours are now at an end, we shall not deem it requisite to reply to any animadversions which the present paragraph may produce.